■ BUSINESS/B1
Foreign employers coming from 20 countries to hire professional, skilled workers

■ METRO/A17
Montalban dump to stay open until December

20

■ NEWS/A2
DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo summons US chargé d'affaires on embassy reports

■ ACROSS/A16
NPAs kill 4 rival rebels in Negros Occidental

Palace: It's time Congress enacted wage increase

By Ed C. Cabuenagan Jr. and Jeroven Aning

REMOTE FROM ITS POSITION THAT wage increases should be set by regional wage boards, Malacañang yesterday said it was about time Congress legislated an increase in minimum wages to cushion the impact of the expanded value-added tax on workers.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Customs 'open-drawer' habit to be nailed shut

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO CURB CORRUPTION, acting Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo presented Congress data he seized earlier this year, history "unwritten law" of customs officials in the

Thursday, November 3, 2005 ▲ 28 pages | vol. 29 | no. 310 www.inq7.net

₱ at 5-mo high; stocks up

Investors welcome VAT law

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Michelle V. Ramos

THE PESO STRENGTHened yesterday against the US dollar, while Philippine shares closed higher after a four-day weekend, as investors cheered the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax.

Bold against six months by a legal challenge, the expanded VAT finally took effect on Nov. 1. The tax, which now covers previously exempt goods including petroleum products and electricity, is aimed at reducing the government's massive budget deficit.

Optimism created by the expanded VAT's collection but also given the country's positive chance of an improved credit rating, according to the Department of Finance.

Despite an early victory over the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, the war-free Bush administration officials say US President George W. Bush's policies have created a new haven for terrorism, a free that escalates the potential for Islamic extremist groups in Europe and the United States.

"EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL" against broadcaster Julius Babao, says AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Rear Adm. Teves Dasay during a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

Bunye: Babao report not off the record

CONTRARY TO ITS EARLIER statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye countered himself last night that the disclosure of President Macapagal-Arroyo about the alleged involvement of an ABS-CBN broadcaster in the bailout of a terror suspect was "off the record."

Mr. Bunye told Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo last week that Julius Babao had posted bail in April for Tyrone "Typoy" Santos, reportedly the second in command of the radical Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM).

"I had the earlier impression that conversation [with the President] was off the record. But after checking, I found out that May Taib did not violate any confidentiality. My apologies to Mon and PEC," Bunye said.

Mr. Arroyo also told Tulfo the lady report on the matter was "very disturbing."

Opposition senators criticized Malacañang and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) for putting the lives on hold.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña, who is married to a member of the Lopez family that owns ABS-CBN, said Mr. Arroyo's linking of Babao to Dawud Santos amounted to "rapid [practice to divert public attention] from the real issues" surrounding the ad-ministration.

"It is also unwise to put pressure on members of the media," Osmeña said.

2 experts say Bush losing war on terrorism

WASHINGTON—IS TERRORISM EXPERT Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon have awakened a stark conclusion about the war on terrorism. The United States is losing.

Despite an early victory over the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, the war-free Bush administration officials say US President George W. Bush's policies have created a new haven for terrorism, a free that escalates the potential for Islamic extremist groups in Europe and the United States.

Bush's badly damaged image in the Muslim world could take more than a generation to set right. And Bush's recurring political woes at home have undermined the chance for any bold 21st initiative to address the grim social realities that feed Islamic radicalism, according to the two experts.

"It's been fairly disastrous," says Benjamin, who worked as a director for counterterrorism at the National Security Council from 1998 to 1999.

"We have had some very important successes getting individual terrorists. But I think the broader story is really quite awful. We have done a lot to fuel the fires, and we have done a lot to encourage people to rise up," he adds in an interview.

Benjamin and Simon, a former state department official who was also at the NSC, are co-authors of a new book, called "The Next Attack: The Failure of the War on Terror and a Strategy for Getting It Right" (Times Books).

Following on from their 2002 book, "The Age of Sacred Terror" (Random House), Benjamin and Simon lay what they call US

Muslims end monthlong fast, party

By Mark Meadows
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Sarnia Gutoc
Contributor

MUSLIMS AROUND THE WORLD ended the holy month of Ramadan today with the Eid'l Fitr celebrations.

Andre Ali, a member of the Ulmal Ifta (House of Opinion) in Central Mindanao, yesterday announced that the congregational prayers for Eid would start at 6:30 a.m. at the Cotabato Pilot Elementary School in Cotabato City.

The breaking of the fast completes the monthlong abstention from food and physical pleasures from dawn to dusk. Under the lunar Hijira calendar, Ramadan started upon the sighting of the new moon crescent on Oct. 5.

Officially, the government has declared Friday a holiday to mark Eid.

Muslim communities have been preparing for three days of festivities, shopping for food and decorating houses for sumptuous dining.

Celebrations were also organized in Quiapo, Sampaloc and Malate like Ali.

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ordered, psychiatrist Senior Supt. Hermogenes Esperon

UNDP may quit $12-M Samar project, clergy protests over logging resumption

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT Programme likely to withdraw funding for a $12-million conservation project in Samar as a result of the Philippine government's decision to allow the resumption of logging in a protected area on the island.

Sources said the UNDP indicated during a meeting with project managers last month that it might back out of the second phase of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) if logging operations would resume.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed Jose Ivan Timber Corp. (JITC), a logging firm owned by Sen. Jose Potot Ejercito, to resume operations.

In Borongan, Eastern Samar, Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso and other members of the clergy prepared to mount a campaign against it.

The UNDP has released $8 million for the SIBP since the project started in 2001. The first phase, scheduled for completion in December 2006, has a P150-million counterpart fund from the DENR.

The project gave rise to the Samar Island Nature Park (SINP) in 2003, which is now home to the only healthy lowland forests on the island.

The UNDP is supposed to provide another $4 million for the second phase of the SIBP, which starts in 2007, but UNDP officials were apparently disturbed by the decision allowing the JITC [illegible] to cut trees within the SINP protection zone, comprising more than 300,000 hectares.

The SIBP order allowing logging effectively nullifies the SINP. That's why Pacific Institute] requests have been denied. The national policy there was for conservation, not logging," DENR sa-

PNP grooming psychiatrist as spokesperson

By Luige A. del Puerto

A CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIST MIGHT BE just what the doctor ordered to improve the image of the Philippine National Police in the eyes of the public as it runs the government's cable-lead preemptive response policy.

That one's unusual also includes a lipstick necklace powder.

Senior Supt. Hermogenes Esperon, one of the high-ranking women in the 115,000-strong PNP, is being groomed to replace Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil as spokesperson of the organization.

The 47-year-old Esperon finds herself in an unusual situation.

"THE MENDIOLA OF CENTRAL LUZON," Aurora bishops, who concelebrated the funeral Mass for one dead labor leader Ric Ramos, describe Hacienda Luisita. (Above) The widow Lily Ramos rides youngest son Joshua as a procession at the burial of her husband, on Wednesday. (Story on Page A2.)

WEATHER FORECAST

Second **FRONTPAGE**

DOJ files tax evasion charge vs Judy Anne

By Lolo B. Galvarriato

US envoy summoned on FVR coup report

Bishop to Luisita mourners: Don't rush to judgment

By Nati Cantoveros

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YESTERDAY summoned United States Embassy officials to shed light on documents the embassy had reportedly sent to Washington regarding a plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, including one linking former President Fidel Ramos to the alleged conspiracy.

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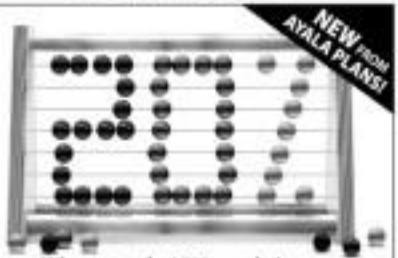

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Moro rebs may disarm village detachment in South Cotabato

A MORO SPOKESMAN in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, said on Wednesday that Moro rebels may disarm soldiers manning a detachment in Barangay Kabulnan in Tacurong City, South Cotabato, as a show of support for the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Ameril Ombra Kato, MILF spokesman for Central Mindanao, said the rebels would not attack the detachment of the Philippine Army's 40th Infantry Battalion.

"We will disarm them peacefully," Kato said in a phone interview.

He said the rebels would not fire a single shot at the soldiers, but would only ask them to surrender their weapons.

Kato said the MILF would not harm the soldiers because they were not occupying the land of the rebels.

"It's a detachment within a very densely populated community," Kato said, adding that the MILF guarantees the safety of residents of the village.

A joint ceasefire monitoring committee is investigating a government complaint that the detachment violated the terms of the May 2002 ceasefire.

The government and the MILF are scheduled to resume peace talks this month in Malaysia. AFP

MEETING WITH FVR, JDV

GMA open to clipped powers

By Michael Lim Ubac

AMID MOUNTING CLAMOR FOR HER TO cut short her term, President Macapagal-Arroyo was open to the idea of clipping her powers to appease the army for a "friendly, parliamentary system" to replace the current presidential form of government, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

Mr. Arroyo had met recently on Monday with De Venecia and former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos, the top Party leaders of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, at an undisclosed place in Makati City.

De Venecia is Lakas president while Ramos chairs its vice-and Estrada are the national chairman and their counterpart, respectively, of Lakas.

The three (and) leaders discussed ways to quell rightist unrest which has been fueled by the country's shift to a parliamentary system, the first parliamentary elections in mid-2007 and "maintaining together certain agenda," said De Venecia.

Under the French system, a president acts as the symbolic head of state but the day-to-day affairs of the government are run by the prime minister.

De Venecia acknowledged that the meeting was aimed mainly at "maintaining political equilibrium for the President to cut short her term" even when "she survived a gruelling impeachment battle last September."

During the meeting, De Venecia said they had agreed that the shift was "aimed only necessary" for the peace in the country, "to avoid violence, poisonous and negative politics" and propel the country's economic development.

But congressional sources said the shift would affect the incumbent's powers as President.

"That's a natural consequence. The President knows that it's inevitable," said a senior Lakas leader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another Lakas member said: "Of course, the constituent assembly will determine the in-coyote time. That's unspoken. If for power to determine the transitory provisions, subject to the ratification by the people through a plebiscite."

Although the executive report calling for Charter reform has yet to be organized on the floor of Congress, De Venecia said Charter reform would be completed by 2006 "as scheduled."

According to him, the party leadership would recommend that the President's term of office "should continue and will not be disturbed," although her transition powers would be decided by the constituent assembly.

Lakas-CMD Reps. Ronaldo Zamora (Mandaluyong City), and Mauricio Domogan (Baguio City), both vice chair of the House committee on Constitutional amendments, said that proponents to cut the President and Vice President's terms would be "in a minority position" of the entire proposed package of constitutional reforms. With Philip C. Tubeza

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Egnar, 80

LEONARDO ARELLO EGNAR OF MALAYbalay, Bukidnon, died Nov. 2, after a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife, Bonifacia; children Linda, Arnel, Maximo, Elmer, Leonardo Jr., Leopoldo, Lydia and Alfredo. His body lies at the Egnar residence. Interment will be on Saturday in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

CHEd chief, execs clash over bidding of P130-M project

By Alexis Pupos

TWO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE Commission on Higher Education claim that the CHED's acting chair, Dr. Carlito Puzon, has "clouded" the bidding for a P130 million project in which he has some "preferred" contractors.

The two officials, who asked not to be named, said Puzon has been exerting pressure on the CHED's bidding and awards committee (BAC) that is handling the procurement process for the Higher Education Development Grants project funds for Mindanao campus of the University of the Philippines.

They said Puzon had sent a letter to the BAC last Oct. 24 and threatened to file charges against BAC members for allegedly not complying with the provisions of the Procurement Law in the handling of the events.

The CHED officials, who are members of the BAC, also alleged that Puzon wanted to award the contract for the project to a contractor identified to C.D. Gatto Philippine Builders.

But Puzon, in a phone interview, said the insinuation of his name to the BAC was to protect the government from violations of government bidding processes.

He said one of the hidden bad motives to force the timing that the BAC was not following procurement procedures.

Puzon also denied that he was favoring any of the bidders for the P130 million project.

Among the concerns raised by Puzon were the alleged failure to undertake detailed engineering studies for the project and the designs failure to obtain approval of the budget for the contract and other technical matters.

Puzon gave the BAC members 48 hours to complete entry an administrative charges should the final against them, claiming that the "necessary safeguards" of the CHED were violated.

Other sources said he was the only member of the four other CHEd commissioners who supported his decisions if there had been any irregularity not be bidding process.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 21 issue, a caption on Page 112 of the Sunday Lifestyle section mistakenly identified the women at right (Ike o Marita Sandoval, and Marita Tolentino).

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Edison Wabenzon - Staff Nurse at Detroit Medical Center, Greater Georgia, U.S.A.
Evangeline Castañeda - (1971) Holy Cross Family Medical Center, Illinois
Ma. Concepcion Arcaya - (1976) County Hospital of Chicago
Rebecca Lund - (1981) Zayed Military Hospital Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
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Wrong guy, intel man says of terror suspect

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE "ABU TAGALOG" ARREST-ed in Baguio City on Saturday is most likely not the name "Abu Tagalog" revealed by the police for taking part in the 2001 Jose Pidal, Quezon, bombings, an intelligence officer at the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame said yesterday.

The officer, who spoke on condition he be quoted, but he quoted by name, said the PNP intelligence community in Camp Crame had no document information against Amil Sakib, also known as "Abu Tagalog," who was arrested by a joint team of Metro Manila and Baguio City police on kidnapping charges in the Don Palmas case.

Brenton Vidal Quesol, chief of the National Capital Region Police, confirmed Sakib's arrest and said he was standing by the technical men who had led police to Sakib. He dismissed the intelligence of Don't care to comment.

"We have an informer who pointed to Sakib as the 'Abu Tagalog' who is the subject of an arrest warrant," Quesol said. "We'll present him to court. We'll bring him to the police, where the arrest warrant was issued."

The intelligence officer said "Abu Tagalog" was a "generic name" in a common idiom, and police were looking for at least two more "Abu Tagalogs" linked to the Jolo hostage and the Don Palmas kidnapping.

The might not be the one, and most likely he is not" the term "Abu Tagalog." The intelligence officer said of Sakib.

"What I understand is that when he (Sakib) was booked, he signed his name as 'Abu Tagalog,'" the officer said. "An informant identified him as Abu Tagalog, which might be the basis for his detention. But to (a) be his co-(designate) accused number."

Sakib's Abdulbi, a Tagalog-based Iranian scholar, had said earlier that Sakib, a native of Basilan, had been living in Baguio since 2005. He was a volunteer fullbase helper at the local diamond. Khaerudin Gomo, the league's head to Sakib in Palmas's name.

A non-commissioned officer-Sakib, a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group, was arrested with Sakib, according to reports.

The intelligence officer said that "Abu Tagalog" had already been arrested in October 2002 in Malaybalay Village, Tagaig, Tagaig or Abu Sayyaf leaders. His name was identified as Mark Gambahan and was charged along with Rhochdy Jumjum and several other suspected ASG members in the abduction of Filipino and foreign tourists from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Around 20 heavily armed men snatched 20 persons, including American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, from the Dos Palmas resort in May 2001. The hostages were brought to Sulu and Basilan. Some of them were beheaded, including American Guillermo Sobero.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

ALMA MORENO RECOUNTS ORDEAL

Nightmare in Narita

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"HAPO hotgroup (a nightmare)," was how actress Alma Moreno described her family's more than seven hours of detention at the Narita International Airport in Tokyo. "I was scared, but I tried to look strong and composed for my two children (10-year-old Vivica Joey and 5-year-old Ms. Maid Steven)."

On board Philippine Airlines Flight 432, in which she arrived in Japan at 7:20[illegible] on Thursday, Oct. 20, accompanied by her two children (by estranged husband Joey Marquez), former partner Rudy Fernandez, present partner Dee

INSIDE

2 days to go
Battle of the Courts
National Finals
Who will emerge as this year's champion?
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jaime
mafe
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Bunye: GMA report on Babao not off the record

Ronnie Hiwatig Lardizabal

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo was wrong party when she turned over the broadcaster "Mabalasong Kalipunan ni GMA," he said, according to a poll. "Why Babao? Why not the judge or the prosecutor who allowed bail? Maybe their evidence against Ramon is weak."

It lies

The SSS, founded by Santos' cupboard cohort Teodoro Atherton "Ahmad" Santos, is said to be connected with the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Both Babao and ABS-CBN had denied that he posted bail for Santos. But the network announced an internal investigation of the issue.

Babao arrived late Tuesday from Hong Kong, where he had been on vacation.

A source at the airport said he was on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 211, which landed at around 11 p.m.

Appearing yesterday on ABS-CBN's early evening newscast, Babao said he was willing to go on leave for the duration of the investigation.

Speaking carefully

Malacañang spoke carefully on the Babao case, with Interior Secretary Eduardo Ermita leaving it to the AFP to do the talking.

While stating that the allegation against Babao was "very serious," Ermita said the government was not investigating him.

"No, I don't know of any such action of investigating [Babao]," Ermita told reporters at his weekly news conference. "I don't know if any action will be [taken] through me or from the President, to continue with the investigation."

Ermita advised reporters to interview military officials and "double check" with Babao himself.

"If I were Mr. Babao, I'll try to make a clean [breast] of the whole thing," Ermita also said.

"Whatever comes out, at least he can answer it if it's not accurate, or he can say something about it, as why he did certain actions," he added.

Ermita said he had been told of the lady's report on Babao but that he did not want to divulge it so the media not wrong conclusions be made.

"I would rather disassociate myself from that story and not print it directly from [AFP general headquarters]," he said, adding that the case of Babao was an "operational matter."

No direct proof

But the AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2) admitted that the military had no direct proof that Babao had bailed out Santos.

"It's circumstantial [evidence]," Brig. Gen. Nestor Tinio Dungo said at a press conference, referring the earlier statement of a military official who requested anonymity.

It was Dungo's first time to face the media since the report on the President's disclosure to Tulfo regarding Babao was published by the Inquirer.

Mr Arroyo had based his disclosure on Dungo's intelligence report that was prepared by the lady.

Dungo was not saying that Julius Babao categorically posted the bail, but we will cite to you the facts regarding the circumstances by which his name was implicated," said Dungo, who was flanked by two high officers during the press conference.

The lady officer cited Babao's presence during the bail hearing when Santos unexpectedly produced 9200,000 in cash for his bail, and the fact that an ABS-CBN van took the latter away after he was released from military detention.

'A good picture'

According to trial court counsel Atty. Jerome Aguyao, Santos was suddenly able to produce the cash for his bail when initially he was without even pleading with the judge to reduce the bail because Santos was jobless.

"I believe that money came from someone inside the courtroom," Aguyao said. "I'm not categorically saying it was Julius Babao. He might be there."

Both opposition allies Lt. Commander Teddy Quimson recalled how Santos was whisked off from Camp Aguinaldo in an ABS-CBN van when he was released on bail.

Dungo said he immediately submitted an intelligence report to the President, stating these observations.

"What we submitted is an intelligence report that does not need to be [authenticated]. Some experts cannot be made evidence in court, but they are important because they give us a good picture of what's happening," he said.

Asked if Babao actually gave the money, Dungo replied: "It's circumstantial.

"What we're trying to say is, here's a suspected terrorist who is wanted in several incidents that killed several lives. He even [left] that same media personalities are giving them comfort."

Guarantor of bail bond?

Asked whether media coverage of captured terror suspects was lasting reward or "giving comfort," Dungo shot back: "Was he your ang ginawa ng isang kasamahan nyo [And what did a colleague of yours do]?"

Babao used his influence to help convince a surety firm to guarantee Santos' bail bond, according to a source privy to the transaction.

The surety was said Summit Guarantee and Insurance Corp. was initially reluctant to take on Santos' case.

"Julius Babao was asking when Dimaal could leave jail," the source said, adding:

"He was told that there was a problem, and that the bond firm was reluctant to help. So he spoke to the bondswoman on the phone, and that was it—the bond company accepted [Santos'] case."

"There was no doubt that Julius was able to help because of his stature as a media personality."

The source said the premium paid was around P50,000, the rate that is set to be natural, fleeting prosecution.

The business standard statement on the phone, but a staff member said the person in charge of the Santos case had not yet arrived.

Another staff member speculated and said he and the others were told not to disclose information on the Santos case to the media.

Antiterror bill

According to Dungo, the country needs an antiterror law that does not allow captured terror suspects to post bail.

Another opposition senator, Panfilo Lacson, said Ms Arroyo has no one but herself to blame for Santos' being able to post bail.

"Had she seriously pushed Congress to pass my antiterror bill way back in 2000 and again in 2004, there was no way Santos would have been granted bail by anybody, and a friendly court would not, because, remember, being a non-bailable offense," Lacson said.

The senator had expressed plans to withdraw as author of the antiterror bill in the Senate, for fear it would be used by the administration against Mr. Arroyo's political foes.

"Whether it's Babao or Dimaggo or anybody else [who provided the bail money] is of no moment. Santos could have posted bail anyway," Lacson said.

Babao had earlier named as the expert broadcaster Dungo as providing the bail for Santos. He had said he only "connected" the two sides.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor presented Dungo in August in an effort to show that the "Hello, Garci" tapes had been doctored.

'Non-issue'

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said reporters that it was not against the law to provide bail for anyone.

"Whether Babao posted bail, no use, it is a non-issue because bail is perfectly legal under our laws if the offense is bailable," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan echoed this observation.

"Assuming [Babao posted bail for Santos], no, it is not a crime," he said in a text message.

Pangilinan also said he would believe Babao if the latter would deny posting bail for Santos.

"Having worked with Julius Babao in ABS-CBN for nearly a decade, I have no reason to doubt his integrity and his professionalism as a broadcast journalist," Pangilinan said, adding:

"I wish I could say the same about the integrity and professionalism of the lady, especially after being embroiled in the 'Hello, Garci' wiretapping scandal."

Too frugal

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said Babao was "too frugal to the point of stinginess," and paying bail for Santos would be "against his nature."

Remulla had a chance to work with Babao during his stint in ABS-CBN as a field reporter in 1992-2000.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, stressed that Babao's case was a matter internal to ABS-CBN.

"I leave this to the media organization. Is it ethical? Is it prudent, should? And of course, there should be no involvement on the motive. But if the motive is purely humanitarian, why not? It is provided for by law," he said.

He also said the controversy only highlighted the need for Congress to pass the antiterror bill "as soon as possible."

Getting the story

The lawyer who facilitated the bail said Babao's only interest in Santos was to get the story.

"What I understand is, he [Babao] wanted exclusive, he was after the scoop, to [get it first] before the other networks did," Alexander Marcelino said during a briefing.

Marcelino said close aides to the latter, Babao had no part in raising the bail money did not serve as a guarantor, and did not use his influence to secure the bond. Him's cooperation in getting Santos out of jail.

The lawyer also denied reports that Santos had disappeared. "He has not jumped bail. He has been attending his hearings. If [he], we have a hearing tomorrow in Isabela, he doesn't know if it will push through, tomorrow being the end of November," he said.

"Now he runs for his life," Marcelino said, adding that military officials were "discussing up the terrorists charge because they want the audience bill passed." Report: Nestor Ankot Gadap Sarvilano, Christine G. Avendaño, Bonz J. Benthagan, Gaipe A. del Puerto, TJ Burgonio, Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac

2 experts say Bush losing war on terrorism

Reuters

Bin Laden since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

The Bush administration pressure on the war on terrorism is a difficult but largely successful struggle that has seen the gutting of al-Qaida pro-Sept. 11 leadership and prevented new attacks in the United States over the past four years.

Bush said last month the United States and its allies had disrupted plans for 18 al-Qaida attacks since Sept. 11, including a plot to unleash a chemical weapon against the West Coast targets.

The White House described Iraq as a central front in the war on terrorism and says the building of democracy there will withstand militant Islam and help to propel the entire Middle East region toward democracy.

Benjamin and Simon's criticism of the Bush administration's Iraq failure is quite consistent with those of other critics, including former US National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and former White House counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke.

Energize jihad

"We stay be attacked by terrorists who receive their training in Iraq, or attended by terrorists who were inspired, organized and trained by people who were in Iraq," says Simon, a Rand Corp. analyst who teaches at Georgetown University.

"[Bush] has given them an excellent American target to fire their guns at. It has energized the jihad and given militants the kind of urban warfare experience that will raise the future threat to the United States exponentially."

For Benjamin and Simon, the war on terrorism has cost the United States hundreds of billions of dollars but has failed to counter a deadly global movement responsible for attacks in London, Madrid, Bali, Indonesia and Egypt.

And not even al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, according to the two experts, would have dreamed the United States would stumble so badly to the route of Muslim public opinion.

"Everyone says there's a war of ideas out there, and I agree. The sad fact is that we're on the wrong side," says Benjamin, now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Challenging steps

US hawkers could improve, the authors say, if Washington took a number of politically challenging steps, like bolstering public diplomacy with trade pacts aimed at expanding middle class influence in countries such as Pakistan.

Washington also needs to do more to ease regional tensions that feed Muslim grievances across the globe, from Thailand and the Philippines to Chechnya and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a Muslim world of 1.2 billion people, as many as 75 percent hold negative views of the United States.

Because anti-US rhetoric often appeals strongly to impressionable youth, Benjamin and Simon believe many of today's young Muslims will harbor grievances against the United States for the rest of their lives.

The authors believe there is little prospect for fundamental improvement in US policy under Bush.

"There are sincere conservatives, there are communists to the ranks of trade, there are political economists," says Simon.

"There are not the kinds of circumstances that future bold new policies that require appealing political capital that it turns out the White House just doesn't have," he adds. Reuters

Muslims end monthlong fast, party

Inquirer

Eagle Blue Mosque.

Festivities

In Mindanao, the International Monitoring Team, headed by Malaysian Gen. Ismou Abbas will spearhead the "Eurobull" (harvest gathering) of food to celebrate Qu'ran for "the coming of the grace process."

Some 50,000 faithful will gather for the early morning prayers at the City Plaza.

In Marawi City, the Mindanao State University muslim grounds will host 30,000 Muslims in the town proper, the Amirul Mu'minin Islamic Center mosque, largest in the province, will welcome 7,000-10,000 people.

In Simunul Island, Tawi-Tawi, traditional games and sports will accompany the festivities.

Muslims, even their children, in their native or formal attire with their prayer mats will converge in major prayer areas for the required prayers.

Outreach activities will also be conducted for the needy. In Manila, the Rizal Shrine Pedestrian Network will visit the Muslim inmates in the Camp Bagong Diwa's Detention Cells and Jails.

In Marawi City, the Inspired Youth Optimists Guild delivered gifts and goods to displaced people at Camp Ormata Hospital.

The non-for-profit congregational outreach will focus on forgiveness, family and worship.

Ulamas will lead prayers as early as 5 a.m. for our home.

Then families who have not given charity will distribute their zakat to the poor and needy, sometimes in the form of cattle or rice. They then proceed to their homes or their relatives who will have elaborate family gathering.

5 pillars of Islam

Eid'l Fitr is the first major Islamic holiday observed in the Muslim world.

The five pillars of Islam include fasting, declaration of Shahada (that Allah is God and Muhammad is His Messenger), charity, prayers and pilgrimage.

In this year's celebrations, hopes are high for the peace process.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has issued a message calling for a "true, genuine and lasting peace in the Bangsamoro homeland in war-torn Mindanao."

'Martyr' mayor

The yesterday Mayor Ambuan Ambatan of St. Bernard was in Maguindanao died of heat stroke in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, while performing Hajah, an optional pilgrimage.

Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr., who heads the provincial delegation of Umrah to Mecca, said Pendatun, 65, was rushed to the Jeddah Medical Center on Sunday when he fell dizzy and became unconscious while performing the ritual.

Ampatuan, who met Pendatun's ex-hospital bed until his death, said Muslim scholars had considered the mayor a martyr because he was fasting and doing religious duties at the time of his death.

PNP grooming psychiatrist as spokesperson

Nestor Burgos

Women comprise only 7.7 percent of the police force. Some has reached the top.

A detective came as a pleasant surprise when the PNP appointed Sr. Supt. Leonila Bersola, mom of three Americans, took great care of her family when they arrived for her father's war medal being among the ranks. Only a Grade 6 student, that event would leave a lasting impression on her mind.

But as a child and teenager, joining the police or military was "farthest from her mind," she says.

Sabangal had always wanted to become a physician, until pursued her interest relentlessly. She graduated cum laude at the University of the East in 1977, took up medicine in Far Eastern University in 1981, and went on to specialize in psychiatry in 1987.

She practiced as the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City until 1990, when the PNP recruited her to head the women-psychiatric unit of the Camp Crame general hospital.

Entering the force as a major, Sabangal immediately saw how much the organization was. She remembers with a chuckle how, in her first few months, policemen would attempt to flirt with her.

"They were very much aware that I was married, and the only police officers were married. They'd not you up, it was irritating," At the time, she and husband Bernardito, a businessman, already had two children, Bernice Anne, now a psychology student in the University of the Philippines who also wants to be a doctor.

In the next few years, Sabangal would resolutely interview hundreds of men and women police trying to erase the police service or get a promotion to evaluate their fitness.

Debriefing trauma cases

She would also counsel or debrief officers suffering from trauma, such as those who were taken captive by communist rebels or from alcohol addiction. She is also currently chief of the Region 1 Police's medical services.

Male officers who'd try to put her down would have to think twice. As a police psychiatrist, she can be considered an expert of the macho psyche.

She does not carry a gun—some say the remission of a weapon is the work though, unless necessary.

Her being a police woman never went in the way of having a family life. There were times when she had to bring Anne to work, and she'd tell a client "to pretend that my daughter is not around." She and Bernardito would later have another child, Bernida, now a Grade 6 student.

Thinking about her career options one day, she imagined herself speaking for the police, and brought up the idea to Director General Arturo Lomibao, the PNP chief. Soon enough, she found herself inside a small cubicle inside the Public Information Office.

Are women capable?

Does she think that women are capable of doing such a traditionally done by men?

The Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy have already opened their doors to women, she points out.

"Women are as capable as men. That has been recognized ... by the opening of the academy to women," she says. Condescension filter in the national security adviser of the United States, she adds.

"I'm enjoying myself so far," she says. For the last several weeks, she has been trying to absorb and learn as much as she could from Bersola's press briefings.

Gender sensitive

With an image that needs cleaning, there is no doubt that this woman officer will offer a fresh face to a tainted public, a feminine relief in a job that is a macho-obsessed society, is increasingly becoming more and more important.

Can she, for sure, do a better job explaining the policy of collateral damage/police suspicion? Will she be able to stop the press talking about the leftist forces?

The bosses asked themselves why a woman? "If she could do the job, why not? The public would not like to be crude. We would like to be gender-sensitive."

₱ at 5-mo high; stocks up

From page A1

will generate jobs and increase economic activity," Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said.

The peso closed at 51.71 against the US dollar, gaining 21 centavos from Friday's 51.94. It was the local currency's strongest position since early Dec. 2000.

Jumping past the 2,000-point mark, the main Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) gained 16.9 points or 2.6 percent on a three-month high. It closed at 2005.12 on turnover of 1 billion shares worth ₱1.2 billion.

Remittances

The peso was also boosted by the spike in remittances by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) ahead of the Christmas season. Central Bank Governor Rafael Buenaventura said dollar remittances by OFWs were expected to build up thereby supporting the peso even as the US dollar was being boosted by a further rise in interest rates.

The US Federal Reserve yesterday trimmed its key interest rate by another 25 basis points to 4 percent. Its series of rate increases since last year has prompted offshore markets like the Philippines to raise their own rates to preserve the attractiveness of their currencies.

Firms to pass on costs

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaguas Jr. said the federal reserve's action was expected. "The next movements will take this into account together with other related factors like liquidity growth and possible second-round effects," he said.

The rate cut by the US Fed "is in line with promises that it observers have set on the government is counting on fiscal deficit, Ayo Gonzales, power industry consultant of Energy Watch, Inc., said.

"It must be negative on a macro level but positive on a macro scale," Gonzales said.

He said consumers were now expected to reduce big bit from the last because they would just pass on most of their costs to consumers.

PRESIDENT Arroyo presides over the meeting of the National Security Council and the National Economic Development Authority on Wednesday. From left, Secretaries Joseph Durano, tourism; Raphael Lotilla, energy; Hermogenes Esperon Jr., public works; Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo; Media Director Ignacio Bunye and Justice Secretary Roel Gonzales. Sonny Ang

"We don't expect (profit) margins to be squeezed but it will depend on demand. There will be pressure on the government to hike the VAT but if government holds its ground, it may make the deficit more manageable," Gonzales said.

Favorable evaluation

The Department of Finance noted the expanded VAT had already picked up the country's credit standing, with foreign investment banks giving a favorable evaluation of Philippine issued debt papers.

The DOF cited the "zero weight" evaluation by Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley on debt instruments issued by the Philippine government.

An "investment-grade" evaluation means the investment bank is suggesting that investors buy Philippine debt papers on the secondary market because of a favorable fiscal outlook.

The finance department quoted Merrill Lynch as saying that the fiscal outlook for the Philippines appeared stronger in 2002 and in the medium-term, and that the government should be able to bring down the level of public debt.

The country's credit rating was downgraded early this year by major credit rating agencies partly because of the uncertainty of the repealed VAT's implementation.

The tax measure is estimated to generate between ₱4 billion and ₱5 billion in the remaining months of the year, and ₱81.9 billion annually starting next year. The tax rate will be raised from 10 to 12 percent starting Jan. 1, 2006.

Phlsk to include 5 new firms

PSEi revisions finds the new SSF law, the government is expected to trim down its budget deficit next year to ₱124.9 billion, or 3.1 percent of gross domestic product. This year, the deficit is expected at ₱180 billion, or 5.4 percent of GDP.

At the stock exchange, gainers outnumbered losers 83 to 33, with 24 stocks unchanged.

Seven new companies to be added to the PSE composite index by December may have also bolstered the market's gains, said Erwin Bulan, research analyst at SB Capital Investment.

The companies will be added to the PSEi, the main barometer of stock market activity, starting Dec. 1.

The additions to the 30-company index are Banco De Oro Universal Bank, ABS Investments Corp., Digitel, controlled by multinationals Henry Sy's Manila Pavilion Co. of Andy Ayala and Philippine Telephone Corp. of the PLDT group, and Philex Mining Corp.

To be dropped from the list are Ispan maker Lumbera Gas Miguel Inc., electronics maker Electronics Inc., holding firm JG Summit Holdings Inc. (of the John Gokongwei group), semiconductors maker Shuie Corp., and resort-gaming firm Philippine National Bank.

Criteria

Some of the criteria for inclusion in the 30-mix are liquidity — the average daily value of peso trades of at least ₱5 million; marketability — being traded 95 percent of the total trading days within the period reviewed, and market capitalization — the ranking of the company based on its total value of its outstanding capital shares at the prevailing market prices.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has reviewed the index composition in 2001, when it adopted a free float system of weighting because of sluggish market activity.

Palace: It's time Congress enacted wage increase

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Interestingly, businessmen, who are normally against any wage increase, have also seemed up to the idea of wage increase as long as it is reasonable.

Businessman Raul Concepcion said the increase should probably be given by the middle of next month or January next year.

Fast-tracking wage hikes

Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita noted that the last time Congress legislated a wage increase was in 1989.

"Any increase in salary can be legislated anytime. That is the relevance of our representatives in both chambers of Congress," Ermita said.

He noted that only a congress approval session would speed up a wage increase because the regional wage boards could only raise salaries once in 12 months. The latest wage adjustments in the country's 15 regions were made in June and July.

If Congress passed a measure raising the minimum wages, Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo would endorse it.

"If possible why not? Malacañang will always support that. It President like President Arroyo always wants to help her people, economic uplift their lives. But all these things must be done within the legal process," he said.

The minimum wage in Metro Manila is currently pegged at ₱288 to ₱325 a day, the highest among the regions. The Association of Employers in Mindanao Business has the lowest daily minimum wage rate at ₱180.

The National Wage and Productivity Commission said a family of six in Metro Manila would need ₱960 a day in September.

2 pending bills

Labor unions have demanded a ₱125-a-day increase over the current P96 rate and should take into consideration the adjustments granted by each of the regional wage boards.

"It should not be a issue just to enforce and we are also considering the actual impact on prices," Concepcion, also chair of the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, told the Inquirer.

He said the country's biggest business groups had agreed to consult with Congress to arrive at a consensus on the wage increase.

Concepcion said he preferred an adjustment in the minimum wage rates to an increase in allowances.

Exempt SMEs

He also suggested that the minimum wage increase cover only big corporations and exempt small and medium enterprises that might not be able to cope with higher labor costs.

But the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) cautioned against moving too quickly on a wage hike before ascertaining the impact of the EBE.

"I hope that wages will not be politicized otherwise our economic fortunes will be seriously affected," PCCI president Donald Ino said.

Ino said the expanded VAT would not have a significant impact on the inflation rate.

TUCP for tax exemptions

While Malacañang and businessmen are receptive to a wage increase, the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines is not.

TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said that given today's economic conditions it is very "inopportune" for the group to ask for any increase. He said the group's immediate thrust is to call for another round of wage increases.

He said bigger tax exemptions would shield workers from the increase in prices of commodities caused by the expanded VAT.

Aguilar said the TUCP was reviewing its proposal that those earning ₱10,000 and below a month be exempted from paying income tax. This, he said, would improve workers' take-home pay by as much as 18 percent.

"The working 28 percent increase in take-home pay will partially recoup the lost purchasing power brought by the expanded VAT," he said.

But Aguilar said the TUCP would push for new wage adjustments if the inflation rate were to at least 10 percent.

Besides tax breaks, the militant Pentafo-Bayanggawa (PM) wants a ₱125-a-day wage increase to "to mitigate the distortions of prices of the expanded VAT."

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo said the overall inflationary effect of the new tax on workers must equal or be less than a day's wage.

About ₱420 per month would be levied on workers due to high oil prices of goods and services, according to Magtubo.

Customs 'open-drawer' habit to be nailed shut

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"nailed shut."

'Drop boxes'

There a long-contended problem of public disorder at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) being used as "drop boxes of extra income," Arroyo, a re-elected lawmaker, collected from the bureau's former supervisory committee hearing.

Sad down the drawers was Arroyo's solution as it would be too expensive to replace the bureau's 1,000 desks with customized tables with transparent drawers.

Arroyo told congressmen that he would "permanently lock the drawers of personnel from the security guards, janitors, clerks all the way up to high-ranking officials."

"We are aware of the 'open drawer' problems. We are thinking of providing management desks but this would cost much money. What we would do is assign a group to go open one by one and the drawers shut so there is much locked and closed permanently," Arroyo said.

'Martilyo Gang'

Committee Sen. Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., the committee chair, quipped that Arroyo's plan was "the Martilyo Gang enforced" to corruption at the BOC.

Representative Raquel Bono (Bicol), Manuel Enriquez (Quezon City) and Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) complained of red tape before cargoes are released by customs personnel.

Crisologo complained about "the too many regulations needed, including those of the security guards to bring any a golf club" out of the customs zone.

Red tape

Bono said a foreigner friend of his had to go through the ordeal of dropping "something into the open drawers of customs personnel to get the papers moving."

Arroyo, a retired colonel and late aide to former President Fidel Ramos, assured the committee that she would "take more hands-on role in Customs in the release of shipments from the ports."

He said corruption would be minimized and "efficiency increased" if there was no need for BOC officials to meet with importers face to face.

"If everything will be done online, for example, then there will be no need for those open drawers and the signatures of personnel," Arroyo said.

Andaya reminded everyone that the national government was counting on the BOC to collect ₱190.5 billion in duties and taxes next year, or 16 percent of the government's tax collection target of ₱981 billion.

Collection shortfall

While it exceeded its 2000 target by ₱2.6 billion, the BOC posted a collection shortfall of ₱2.1 billion in the first eight months of the year, collecting only ₱93.4 billion, Andaya said.

The BOC has a full year excess target of ₱3.1 billion, Andaya added.

Arroyo, however, may be unable to finish all the hammering that's destined to be done at the bureau.

A Malacañang source told the Inquirer on Tuesday that President Macapagal-Arroyo would announce a new customs commissioner this week because she was dissatisfied with Arroyo's performance, particularly the sharp fall in BOC tax collections.

PMA graduate

Arroyo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1980, was tapped by Mrs Arroyo to take over the BOC post vacated by Albert Lina, who resigned after barely 4 months and ran Cabinet secretaries now collectively known as the front 10.

UNDP may quit $12-M Samar project, clergy protests over logging …

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campaign Jose Maliday Jr. told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday.

Maliday said there had been "no formal notice" to the project managers yet on the pullout of UNDP-funded but "are bone rumblings in that direction."

The ARP was issued to preserve the remaining lowland forest of Samar, which were threatened by loggers and the indiscriminate harvest of timber and other forest products.

But in an order issued on Aug. 10, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor allowed the Tabla Bros. to harvest timber in a 91,774-hectare area covered by the timber license agreement in Samar.

The firm's timber licensing agreement (TLA) was also extended by another 15 years to make up for revenues it lost during the 18-year moratorium on logging in Samar, which, the DENR said, was "misguided."

Not for harvest

Maliday said a check with the DENR map revealed there that 90 percent of the TLA area was inside the nature park, where trees are not supposed to be harvested and must instead be conserved.

He said the plantations inside the nature park—which the DENR said the Tabla firm had a right to harvest—were not planted by the company but by farmers who were evicted by the DENR from the area in operations started in 1987.

Environment Undersecretary Bernardo de Castro had said the DENR did not cancel the firm's TLA because the proclamation of protected areas requested gave rights to the territory.

He said the DENR also did not have the money to indemnify the firm if Tabla took the case to court.

"Senator Enrile is one of the country's best lawyers," Maliday said. "If he felt he has been aggrieved, he would have taken this to court. But he waited until he was in the Commission on Appointments, where he endorsed the appointments of … Defensor before requesting this (logging) again. And this time he was successful."

Enrile hailed the opposition early this year to save "subproject."

No consultations

Maliday said the DENR did not consult stakeholders in Samar before coming out with the decision allowing MTC to log inside a protected area.

He said the DENR had assured them that consultations would be held before actual logging operations resume. "It must have been an oversight," he said.

Samar, the Philippines' third largest island, is home to a third of all its land species and is one of its 15 plant diversity centers.

Tabla's endemic trees found on the island are believed to be the World List of Threatened Trees.

Howl of protest

In Eastern Samar, Bishop Modesto and the other clergy of Borongan took to the pulpit their usual against Defensor's order lifting the moratorium on logging.

The "collective howl of protest" was read during Sunday Mass on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the clergy's effort to make the flock aware of their stand.

"Even more, we are facing a serious challenge as residents of Samar Island and as a people of faith. We stand in spiritual solidarity here again not once flourishing forest cover because the logging moratorium had been lifted. If once 1,969 has been lifted," said the statement signed by Modesto and 46 priests belonging to 23 parishes of the diocese.

"The circumstances in this bid to the lifting of the moratorium have not been transparent and the process was flawed," it said.

The clergy's new step is to come up with a united position with the neighboring dioceses on Samar Island—the Diocese of Calbayog in Samar and Diocese of Catarman in Northern Samar.

The order allowing the Tarlac firm to resume operations lifted the logging moratorium in Samar, which was imposed by then President Corazon Aquino on Feb. 6, 1989, after floods and landslides killed nearly 300 persons and destroyed P500 million worth of crops.

Illegal forest destruction was blamed for the disaster.

Mockery

The clergy's statement pointed out that no consultative or public hearing was held prior to the lifting of the moratorium, which, it said, would only be "the mockery of consultation" that the Tabla firm has also the laws of basic deeds of ethnoscale of humanities.

It said the 95,774 hectares of timber concession to the firm has been "a source of the 120,000 hectares of old-growth forest and critical watershed constituting the Samar Integrated Forest Reserve (SIFR) and the SNP."

"Now the resumption of commercial logging in these areas will mean it to make a mockery of the purposes and goals of the SIFR and SNP," it added.

President Fidel Ramos signed Proclamation No. 741 on Feb. 26, 1996, declaring the mountainous in the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar as a forest reserve. The SIFR covers a total area of 360,000 hectares.

On Aug. 13, 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 402, declaring the SIFR as protected area under the category of a national park.

The proclamation intends to conserve the remaining forests, plants and animals in the area as well as promote the ecological balance and ensure continued protection of the population as this is land.

It covers 37 municipalities and one city in the Samar provinces.

Justice

Acted Big to the statement of the Borongan Diocese, points for the Tabla firm was purportedly taken for the lifting of the moratorium.

But the statement said it was so easy to see justice in regard to the forest and to see some positive in regard to others.

"Given the history of logging and mining exploitation in Samar, which have only threatened our gross total impoverishment and massive poverty, we really declare that the natural wealth of Samar Island benefit Samar's poor and not end up in the hands of the already wealthy few," it said. With a report from Cynthia Balana, Philippine Star

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The WORLD

Lilia Lorena B. Gutoc

US Senate holds rare secret session on spy scandal

WASHINGTON—THE US SENate held a rare secret session Tuesday to discuss a scandal that led to the resignation of a top White House aide last month and sees the troubled investigation used to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The two-hour secret session, came at the demand of opposition Democrats, who said the closed-door debate was necessary to allow a full discussion on alleged manipulation of pre-war intelligence by President George W. Bush's administration.

Democrats used a rare parliamentary maneuver to force lawmakers to discuss the issue on the Senate floor...a move that infuriated majority Republicans.

Senator Bill Frist, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, dismissed the move as "a pure stunt" by Democrats intended to score political points.

Frist said the move to invoke the rarely used "Rule 21" allowing for secret debate on the Senate floor was "unprecedented" in recent history, and accused Democrats of hijacking the US legislature.

Discussion between senators and the media was necessary because the Senate's Intelligence Committee had failed to properly vet the national security implications of a CIA leak scandal, which led last week to the resignation of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

The criminal charges against Libby followed a two-year investigation by a special prosecutor to find out who in the Bush administration leaked to reporters the name of a covert CIA agent whose husband was a prominent critic of administration claims that Iraq had sought to purchase uranium for its nuclear weapons program.

After Democratic Democrats in vain the parliamentary maneuver to possibly this week to force debate on the intelligence question, Republicans relented and said they would create a bipartisan task force that will issue a report by Nov. 14 on how best to complete the investigation.

Whatever frustrations aroused after the concessions by Republicans.

"After months and months of bogging, crippling, writing letters, we're finally going to be able to have about two of the investigations, regarding how the intelligence was used to lead us into the unwinnable war in Iraq," said a satisfied Democratic Leader Harry Reid after the session.

Reid said the illegal outmasking of covert agent Valerie Plame, as well as questionable efforts by the White House to make the case for going to war in Iraq warranted thorough congressional scrutiny.

"Americans deserve a searching and comprehensive investigation about how the Bush administration brought this country to war," said Reid.

The Senate's committees on intelligence which is empowered to examine US efforts making the case for war in Iraq completed its 500-plus report on intelligence failures in July 2004. AFP

Bush seeks $7.1-B fund for avian flu defense

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ASKED CONgress for $7.1 billion in emergency funding on Tuesday to prepare the United States for a feared avian-influenza pandemic by building stockpiles of drugs and vaccines and encouraging vaccine makers to modernize.

Bush's plan would also bolster efforts to globally monitor the disease.

"To respond to a pandemic we must have emergency plans in place in all 50 states, in every local community. We must ensure that all levels of government are ready to act in communities outbreak," Bush said in a speech at the National Institutes of Health.

Congress did not immediately respond, but the Senate was scraping together $3.9 billion in an amendment to a spending bill.

The White House request includes $1.2 billion to make 20 million more doses of the current experimental vaccine against H5N1 avian influenza, $3.8 billion to accelerate new flu vaccine technology and $1 billion to stockpile more antiviral drugs.

The H5N1 avian influenza has so far only infected 122 people and killed 62, but it has spread to poultry flocks across many parts of Asia and into Europe. It is making closely monitored that scientists say could allow it to spread easily from person to person and create a catastrophic global pandemic.

"We really view this as a threat that cannot be addressed just within our borders. We see this as an international threat," Dr. Rajeev Venkayya, Special Assistant to the President for Biological Defense Policy, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Venkayya said the US plan was meant as an example to state and local governments and other countries.

Several groups said the requests were somewhat sure enough, but praised Bush for making a start.

The plan, to be spelled out in detail on Wednesday by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, includes $251.3 million to help detect and contain outbreaks before they spread around the world.

Bush's request will add to the US supply of H5N1 vaccine, made experimentally by Chiron Corp., Sanofi-Aventis and others.

The vaccine would only provide partial protection against a pandemic strain of flu and would have to be administered to workers without interim overnight emergency—a process that would take months.

Scientists say a better way of making flu vaccines is years off, but they have pressed the government to make a start. The vaccine against seasonal flu does not protect against avian flu.

Only a few companies make flu vaccines and only two—Sanofi-Pasteur and MedImmune—make them in plants within the United States.

Severe shortfalls in influenza vaccine production have illustrated how unsecure the military is. Reuters

Aussie PM warns of terrorist threat

CANBERRA—THE AUSTRALIAN government has received specific information about a terrorist threat on its soil and will rush an urgent amendment to antiterrorism laws through parliament to help counter it, Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday.

"The government has received specific intelligence and police information this week which gives cause for serious concern about a potential terrorist threat," Howard told a news conference.

He refused to give any details about the information, saying only that the amendment to existing counterterrorism legislation would help the authorities deal with the threat.

The attorney general would introduce the amendment to parliament later Wednesday and the government would press for its approval through the evening before recalling the senate on Thursday to pass it into law, Howard said.

"The government is satisfied on the advice provided to it that the immediate passage of this bill would strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to effectively respond to this threat," he said.

"The government is acting against the background of the assessment of intelligence agencies that a terrorist attack in Australia is feasible and could well occur," he said, referring to a report by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), which was presented to parliament on Thursday.

"As ASIO's recently released annual report a warning a comment that specifically cites the threat of home-grown terrorism. ASIO also warned that attacks without warning are feasible," Howard said.

The amendment will add further grounds for listing militant organizations and "clarify that, in a prosecution for a terrorism offence, it is not necessary to identify a particular terrorist act," he said. AFP

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WORLDBRIEFS

Al-Qaida escape

FORT WORTH, Texas—A man once considered a top al-Qaida operative in Southeast Asia escaped from a US counterterrorism facility in Afghanistan and cannot lawfully be barred from entering the country, a federal appeals court said Wednesday.

Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged in the United States in connection with the September 11, 2001, attacks, is serving a life sentence in a federal prison in Florence, Colorado.

Moussaoui's lawyers say he was tortured by Pakistani officials before he was turned over to the US government in 2002. They say he was subjected to sleep deprivation, extreme temperatures and threats of rape and death

"I was embarrassed to be buying such an outfit. I had to explain it to the saleslady."

Why new widow Gloria Romero was wearing red

By Nini Valera

THREE DAYS AFTER SUE ROSES GER husband Jaime de Guzmán was found, Gloria Romero had a pressed by her Malou Abaya Film Festival shoots, "Shake, Rattle and Roll."

She wore a red pantsuit, smiling serenely as the photographer clicked away.

During a break in the shoot, Gloria relented. "The persons who influenced me about this pictorial was embarrassed to say it but later on as soon after my husband's funeral."

But like a pro, as usual, she sat and ate the media right on schedule, though a bit ruffled about the specified color of her outfit.

"I was uneasy about buying a red suit," she admitted. "I had to explain to the saleslady that it was for a pictorial."

Wearing that red suit, Gloria talked to Inquirer Entertainment recently.

"When I was starting out, I felt so lucky," she said. "I admire the young stars today. They go to tapings after school. They have so much talent."

At age 71, Gloria is still one of the busiest veteran actresses in the industry.

Granny roles

"Who would think I'd get such great roles at my age?" she marveled. "I did 'Keeping Mum' and 'Magnifico' just a few years back."

She continued, laughing, "It's useless for me to dream of a lead role now. They wouldn't put me off, anyway, with Pinky Amador or Jericho Rosales. It's mainly lola (grandmother) roles for me. I don't mind. I'm a lola to Chynna (Ortaleza, 13, out of her daughter Marichu)."

Acting remains to be an immensely enjoyable experience for Gloria.

"I love my work," she said. "Many win a term when I wasn't making movies, and I guess I'm a time-tested veteran in the United States ... until Mother Lily (Monteverde) thought of bringing back senior stars to appear on screen with the young stars."

That was in the 1980s. A string of television sitcoms and soaps have since kept Gloria busy.

"I'll stop only when I can no longer memorize my lines," she mused.

Gloria is also the only lola to three pairs featured on billboards for a beauty salon chain.

"Sticky flavor who gave me that as my age," she said with achievement.

Between friends

The endorsement, she disclosed, was a matter between two friends. "We never talked about the money," Gloria said. "[Here's] he brings his staff who knows he comes home from abroad...like this time [she] I'm wearing... which he sent upon hearing I was playing a rich old woman in the movie."

That rich old woman in the "Shake" episode directed by Uro dela Cruz was seen on inquirer.net.

"These were the days," said Gloria. "Here I enjoyed every minute of it!"

Youth, music in acclaimed German films

THE GOETHE INSTITUT MANILA PRESENTS three German feature films with a common theme—music and the youth—tomorrow until Nov. 6 at The Podium Cinemas 2 and Nov. 11-13, at SM Megamall.

"Sunshine Mix" is a hot pace movie about the Berlin hip hop scene. Shot documentary (all the "actors" play themselves, and many of the events are based on real stories), the movie follows a number of people over the course of a day in Berlin. Yasmin, a trying to organize the biggest party in the capital in just 24 hours. Tarek dreams of earning fast by his one enormous graffiti sculpture. "Soprano," a rapper, is dodging debt collectors. The breakdancers called Tanzoids make an appearance.

"The Blind Flyers follows the adventures of best friends Moritz and Ingo as they unobtrusively a school band in the hope of appearing on a television show. The two are typical music-loving teenagers, except for one thing: they are blind. Refreshingly unsentimental, "Blind Flyers" promises neither encouraging nor pity; a movie intends to show that the handicapped are truly just like "normal" people. It won the 2004 German Film Award for Best Children's Film and a Gold Kids Film Award in the same year.

What happens when 250 totally underprivileged children—strangers to classical music—are asked to dance to Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" as performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra? "Rhythm Is It" chronicles this project led by Sir Simon Rattle, BMO chief conductor, and British choreographer Royston Maldoom. Winner of a 2005 German Critics Award, the 2005 Bavarian Film Award for Best Documentary and the 2005 Efrem Impact of Music Award at the Nashville International Film Festival.

For details, call 722-4657 to 73.

Alma Moreno recounts Narita ordeal

From page A1

old Shalini, and five other companions—including ex-mate on the ABS-CBN soap opera, "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," drag performer Ian Veneracion (as William Arjona in real life) and comedian Ejercito (as Ian Asuncion in real life).

"Dyodis brought along his friend, Jessie de Leon of Viva Hot Men," Alma pointed out. "Called herbolario (herbal healing) kuno."

According to Baldy's manager Lolit Solis, it was Jessie's last minute inclusion in the entourage that got the Filipinos in trouble. "Bobby Tarzan, a Viva consultant, faxed a letter to Shalini Ogawa, a press attache in the Japanese Embassy, to prevent Jessie from performing in a show in Tokyo. The letter was the reason that finally got mad at him," Lolit said. Wady and Bobby later figured in an alleged scene at the Hotel Bel.

Bobby's thermometer was confiscated by Si-on Iyogi, immigrant Celso Lopez: "It was Mr. Yoshiro who served, signed and sent the letter... on his own," Lopez said.

Inquirer Entertainment obtained a copy of the letter, in which Bobby alleged that Jessie Orol Jessie Michael de Leon) was on parole or blacklisted Club in Tokyo, with Baldy, Alma and royalty.

What show?

"There was no show," Alma explained to Inquirer Entertainment. "We were there to attend a friend's wedding anniversary and to take my children to Tokyo Disneyland."

Instead of two sets as a holiday, Alma complained, they were treated like criminals by Japanese immigration officials.

She narrated: "We didn't even make it to the immigration windows. We were pulled out from the line by an officer."

According to a second letter drafted by Sen. Joggoy Estrada and sent to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Alberto Romulo, the Filipinos were then "herded into a room where they were made to wait for four hours."

"We were humiliated," Alma claims, "done in," called. "Finally, I was taken to a smaller room where I was asked all sorts of questions." She and Baldy were the only ones interrogated.

Money issue

"They kept asking if we had money," Alma said. "Of course, we had money! I asked if we could buy food for the kids, but they said no. My children were crying, hungry and scared."

They were repeatedly asked to sign a statement. "I refused because it said we were 'ineligible' to land and enter Japan ... because we lacked money!" she said sarcastic.

The group was now brought to the Narita Airport Best Home. Interview letter described the place as "accidents-site detention center."

Alma showed Inquirer Entertainment pictures, taken by Gerald, of their rooms. "It was 4 a.m. when we reached the rest home. There were graffiti on the walls and blood stains on the carpet and mattress. The bathroom was filthy in and the doorknobs to our rooms were wired to prevent us from leaving. It was horrible," Alma said. "When at last we were allowed to buy instant noodles, my children were already asleep."

Ian added, "The air conditioning wasn't

ALMA, A-2

SHOW TIME
Tomorrow
Regine Velasquez in "Sa Mundong Ito" at the Ateneo Recital Hall, Nov. 3, 11, 17, 18 & 19. Dec. 8 & 10.
Jess Santos and John Lapuz in "Ang Kwento ni Juan, 1 Monay, O.C. Pambihira Nov. 3, 11, 12, 18, 19, 24 & 26.

"SWEET w.k.s o Rufa, before she."

Rufa denies romantic link to politician

DOLLY WOOD

Daily Star Correspondent

[TCOTD] Rufa Rhea Quimbo and travel her about-town fiancé Ishtiaq Ice O. Hyacinth Abe Valdez are remarkably and said, "Subutchic names but N. There's nothing between us, really. Even if Rudy Fredenhall is using before my no-no-no. I mean, people just misinterpreted what JF wrote on the wall in "Bubble Gang Trappings." Mr. Ambrosio could be loved me and would marry me anytime. Loveberg long ago you. Sana all ngayon tayo(x2)."

Rufa Rhea said her life was colorful as a rose, since her last gown. I wonder when Pinakbet Chef got some because she loves pinkyandit I would be talking to tell the rights to her "box-cupcake."

Rudy Koreck and Cris Mathay are staying life as new partners with Cabinet, their Brothers, Edi delivered ahead of schedule. Now the former party girl spends more time in the pantry as a Hands-on mom, and wife. "I don't mind being stuck at home forever with my boy by and Cris. Bitman-Sterling Calvin is known. I hope the closet's gone up too fast!" There's no word on this couple, it won't be long for sure before their baby wants something, but they are parents to my plan mother!"

QTV-11

Oh Nov. 11, QTV (Channel 11 JUMA 7) came station (area the league of free TV channels in the country as it goes full blast in rising its colorful lineup of new shows. The programs are specifically designed to coincide with women's daily routines and program controls highlight what a most importance to women.

QTV boasts of innovative programs, such as "Dining Blog," which showcases real stories of fatalities by people who are truly down and yet are willing to go out of their way to help others; "I Have Ba," a funny take on ordinary Pinoy lives; "Lipa ng Kabuhayan," a one-of-a-kind magazine show addressing the many facets of womanhood; "Easy Making Mahagdaling," a public service program hosted by multi-awarded broadcaster now Jessica Soho that reinforces families by worshiping for missing members; "Hilom," a talk show that exclusively addresses mothers and motherto-be; and "Women's Beat," a news news program solely devoted to the protection of women's and children's rights.

My voice-dependable "Kapuso" Erlinda Ruth Raquel, (can it accept "Q stands for quality and not quickie"?) remains to be seen which among the Q shows advertisers will queue up for.

Ahh, Pia!

ITS ADMIRE a delight to chat with Pia Guanio. We've been friends since her ABS-CBN days. Now that she's one of GMA 7's most visible stars, I'm glad she has not contained in waters as when we first met. She's all agog about her show on Q-11, which will deal with "love."

Pia said, "Many work are still looking for top 10 of anything, for instance, the top 10 hottest supermarkets or the top 10 worst things said etc. We will do matters and connection research. We will explore why we chose a particular person or story. It's so interesting. The possibilities are endless!"

At 8 o, the gal for the hands full with her looking shows in "Eat Bulaga," "Tilfer" and "24 Oras." Does she still have time to rest? She laughed, "I can rest when I'm old and many working shall I read?" Doesn't her longtime boyfriend, Mike Jacobus of Cristine Jacobus, ever ask her to stop working so hard and start a life closer, literally? She sighed, smiling, "I made sure I'm not in the net."

Oh yeah! If there's ever a list of 10 most desirable women, Pia could top it. Mike knows that only too well.

Next Page star

I HAD a tough time assessing the gorgeous contestants for Pipe Jones Company's search for its next batch of image models. Out of the thousands of applicants from all over the country 25 were chosen to train for two and screening and 18 from the first batch. They will compete in the grand finale set in December or January 1.00 for each Ronn Timing Ember to Mr. and Mrs. Awards. Ching said the Pipe Jones family!

Reader's corner

Dear Dolly,

I understand the traditions and pomp that Rudy Fernandez and his family went through when they were reported from Japan. However, this is something that he should've kept. Gave up with the Japanese news correspondent officials and Philippine embassy officials. Rudy Fernandez was the person who died like him. He makes actor Rudy Nierras did, that doesn't give Mr. Fernandez the right to snatch and threaten him. Rudy should have counted the names through the proper channels. He's a respected actor and I'm sure his closest friends will come to his rescue. Let's face it, he didn't set a good example to his fans and his children, especially not to his son, Mark Anthony.

Eric Manangan

[E-mail: snow.ing_bulakan@yahoo.com]

Alma ...

...ow king riches."

"I paid ₱4,140 for ...—about ₱22,000— for the three rooms," Alma said.

At 8 a.m., Pablo, they were fetched by airport security, packed in a van and escorted to a Phil. Optic look-To Hotel.

She was seeking redress, Alma stressed. "We say we lied."

She said her blood pressure had shot up and she suffered headaches. "If we admit, could be so traumatized, they'll refund it was like for the children."

On the advice of them lawyers —Ellen Vera, Cruz Nadal and Dean Lacsamana—she is gathering additional evidence and contemplating a suit against Ilocos.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

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Premature celebration

Editorial

A DMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE SOUNDING ecstatic over the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (EVAT). Not only are they praising themselves for what they trumpet as a circumstantial show of political will, they have also promptly declared that EVAT has had very little adverse effect on the country's poor. On Tuesday, the day the law came into effect, Trade Secretary Peter Favila happily announced that prices of goods being sold in public markets and stores around the country remained stable.

It may be too soon for citizens to join in the celebration. While Favila and the price stability saved by government teams could be attributed to the government's success in informing the public about the law, he also pointed out that demand was low last Tuesday because of the holiday. In other words, if there was any pressure on prices of basic goods it would have been downward, not upward. Few people go to market and fewer still do any serious shopping on All Saints' Day. In fact, the only items that are very much in demand on that particular holiday are flowers and candles.

And why would prices shoot up so soon after EVAT was imposed? The part of the law which took effect last Tuesday imposed a 14-percent VAT on certain items that were previously exempt from coverage, like petroleum products, electricity, air and sea travel, and medical and dental services. So unless one went to a gas station or took a boat or a plane to the province or got sick, he was not even supposed to notice that the new tax measure was already in place. If prices of basic commodities rose that day it would not have been for economic reasons but due to insurance profiteering and embedded greed.

The same thing may not be said, however, say three or four months down the road, when production costs will have increased because of the higher costs of electricity and transportation and the VAT on goods and services rises from the present 10 percent to 12 percent. Favila has said the prices of goods should go up by not more than 5 percent on account of higher fuel costs. But how about higher power costs? How about higher labor costs, since workers are unlikely to simply grin and bear their higher electric bills, the higher fares that are sure to come, among other added burdens? What about the higher VAT rate itself? Are these not supposed to be factored into the computation of the effects of EVAT on prices?

Administration officials have described EVAT as a progressive tax that imposes a heavier burden on the more affluent who consume more. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves says that as much as 83 percent of the additional P80 billion revenue from EVAT yearly will be paid by the upper 50 percent of Filipino income earners. But even such a disproportionate sharing of the tax burden does not necessarily make the tax equitable. If you take away P83 from someone who holds a good job, he would probably give up his usual cup of coffee at the nearby café. But P17 taken away from a farmer or fisherman will probably force his family to go to sleep hungry. For those already living in poverty, the smallest added burden could already break their body and spirit.

For all the talk about safety nets, there is no escaping the wide net cast by EVAT. There are no discounts for the poor who ride jeepneys or ships. Poverty does not immunize anyone from diseases. How can those who cannot afford it avoid paying the tax?

Administration officials say the new tax will be returned to the people, and especially the poor, in terms of better health, education and basic services. But didn't they say earlier it was needed to close the budget deficit and reduce the country's debts and thereby stave off a financial crisis? And now that the 2016 deficit seems to be lower than initially projected, among the first things President Macapagal-Arroyo does to assure local officials they would get the P17 billion Internal Revenue Allocation left unrealized since the time of Joseph Estrada and promise congressmen they would have their pork barrel restored in full. Where is the sharing of burden and sacrifice here, when it is well known that the pork barrel is a rich source of graft and corruption? How do you reduce the country's debt when the administration is already spending what it has not even collected yet? And what will be left for essential social services after the President pays off her political debts?

Cold shower

Viewpoint

Juan L. Mercado

Cards for that goes in the late economist Mahbub ul Haq, "Mahbub got the right," wrote Amartya Sen who won the Nobel Prize for his work on poverty. Sen, however, wryly added: "But did anyone expect such frankness?"

Since then, HDRs have settled into a growing list of gauges, from survival probabilities in embryology diffusion. And here, IOR millions vanished, since the early 1990s, a country still capped by dictatorship and broken troops, armed rebel encounters and blind oligarchies.

In the 1990 HDR ranking of 174 countries, the Philippines came in 88. We were bracketed between Romania at 87 and Armenia at 89. The next 177 countries were ranked. This time, we slid into 91st 94, wedged between equal Armenia at 93 and China at 96.

Progress here has been uneven. And crucial indicators don't even look as nice. Love may be blind but economists aren't. Take, for example, the real per-capita backward lurch. Is that why we failed to draw dozens of Habitat's \$1, to share Singapore's \$37?

The answer is a long story. For now, look at varying life expectancies within Asean in the current HDR. Life, after all, is the threshold at which all other hopes begin.

The average lifespan for a Filipino—and any guess, Vietnamese—is 74 plus years. That's up from the low 60s in the late century's "forties is the start of our years," the problem solved. "Eighty if we are lucky."

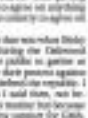
It's a few decades far below in misery than a Laotian's life-span is only 64. That's a stretch higher than what prevails in Tora'Dorá, Toda or Angolanistan, the 0 IOR says.

Then at 76 years, Singaporeans live about six feet. Cremation and urn burial is possible. "That a man's reach should exceed his grasp/Or what's a heaven for?"

Waiting for a coup

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros



RAUL GONZALEZ SAYS THE PRESIDENTIAL Security Group is being recruited by high-ranking military officers to join the move to oust Gloria, the coup media fans tweak. "This is part of efforts to lessen support for Armed Forces from the chain of command... Last night, a reliable source told me that some ranking former PNA officials are trying to sponsor the old PNA."

Boy, talking ugliness. "Ahhh can't be too sure of that by hearsay of the PNP. If there is any truth to this, most probably the PNP is involved... In every coup, you have to have people inside. That's basic. There's one of the problems of a president who has no trust in the military and police."

What's moving with the grease? Well, it is not the certainty of these revelations, on the lack of it. It is the fact that a coup is being talked about openly and its motivations assessed as though it were the most natural thing in the world. Rodolfo Biazon insists what's wrong when he says: "That is regrettable, in this an indication of the mindset that the President can expect not to finish the public has spoken. Is the difference no vote? That is a nasty sense of affairs."

But what makes this a truly scary state of affairs is not just that practically every sector of this country has lost its trust in government, or practically no sector, as is that practically every sector of this country including the public at large, is repeating its trust in the military to run Gloria.

The normal reaction of a Philippine government when it loses the trust of the people is to run out and a betrayal of the public trust and to call on the public to speak it. If it is to ask the people to break themselves and rally behind the government to defend the republic. It has forces to invite you. Then, for example, was when Cory did what she was threatened by successive coup attempts in the late 1980s. She called on the people to rise or they did so before government announced.

I remember in particular that in November 1986, when the greatest challenge to her government arose, the newspapers agreed to publish a pooled editorial condemning the coup and vowing to resist it if it succeeded. As far as I know, it was the first of its kind in this country. The only thing that's heavier than parsing the people of this country's opinion on anything is getting the editors of this country to agree on anything.

Indeed, I remember that that was when Dinky Soliman and others did during the Oakwood mutiny. They called on the public to gather at the Ayala Shrine to register their protest against a military takeover and restore the republic. I did not have their call, as I said then, but because I appreciate military matter but because I did not wish to express my support for GMA. Gloria, by the way, is defending the republic, I was thinking 1986. There is a difference. 1986 herself had betrayed democracy by unleashing her own brand of "war against crime" in the country which really means a "war against democracy," particularly in the form of a "war against civil liberties." Or indeed a "war against great nuisance and right mindset." Telling the very people that put her in power: "You are with us or against me." A unprecedented case of epic proportions.

Today, GMA is being openly threatened by a coup, but you do see how her cutting an to so rise up to defend her. Of course for that, protect democracy. That's what's wrong with the picture.

How can this? The easiest words on the confidential politics of Nido to do so. Only it can throw up its hands to the sky and say: "Ano ba naman ba kasi? Ano ba naman ba kasi? Ano ba naman ba kasi?" Or, or, or leaving thrown their lot with those who want her out. The easiest words on media, with the exception of a reluctance or two from top favorite newspapers, be almost express the publishers and editors of newspapers to publish a pooled editorial condemning any strike against her, with the exception of a couple of newspapers distinguished by bad writing.

His easiest words on the churches do so, with Fernando Cappla or it, still looking for truth in the bosom of the same others they've found there. The easiest words on heads Mike Arroyo, Ronaldo Puno to do so, but now with elections, though still with his mission. The easiest words on the Americans, who may simply have forsaken us. The easiest words on the people, the multitudes who have come to depend on the protection of the country gave her more votes than Binay got the only small thing they have to be associated with to disagree. She probably cannot even count on Angel Trinidad to do so.

No wonder a coup is being talked about openly in one country if, and when, it happens, it will be the most popular coup in the country. One for Guinness.

There is, of course, one other explanation than Filipinos have zero interest anymore in the country which is that they want to send a coup. Because since the "Arabs, Gen?" tape surfaced, Gloria has been living with intensive paranoia of Filipinos of their government. It is the product of a coup—albeit one that was wrought not by the Supreme but by the Commons, not by the generals but by the commoners, not by the hand of Mabini and Bonifacio but by the hand of Virgilio Garcillano and Ramon Piano. But it is a subsector of government, nonetheless, it is a horrible misuse of power—nonetheless, it is a coup if you want to call it that.

Who knows? Maybe GMA will be filled with the Holy Spirit or get diagnosed about cancer, bring whatever comes first, and take everything to purpose by resigning. Now that would be a real coup, that one would die wanting for time.

Brave Gordon

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY QUOTED CAMBALA police official as saying his men did not have to dispose members of the PNP for President Macapagal (PDP-Laban) who were trying to gather signatures for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo so the Manila Hotel Company, not far from PDP's bank, has lost. Incidentally, reports on people were quite displeased that the PDP-Laban members did not honor the lease of the hotel in fact, they were quite upset with the way

Cure for pollution and high prices

THE CLEAN AIR ACT WAS SIGNED a few years ago with much fanfare. And yet every day, as I travel from Novaliches to Quezon City to Quezon City, my lungs are nearly ether spewing thick, black smoke. True, I sometimes see smoke-belching buses going after those vehicles, but the guilty ones apparently never fault into treason.

Of late, the cost of crude oil has been going up, up and away—from $50 per barrel before the American invasion of Iraq in March 2003 to today's level of $70 per barrel.

We eminently non-rich ordinary citizens bear the brunt of these ever problems... severe pollution and skyrocketing oil prices—by being "refused interest" and "even bloodlust."

Ethanol seems to be produced locally—from sugarcane, molasses, corn, cassava and other raw crops. A newly launched 10-percent alcohol blend, using "Superethanol" ethanol, will be cheaper by $0.10 per liter, and it's better on the engine. Bigger price reduction can surely be assured if we are locally produced ethanol.

According to the Department of Energy, the country will be able to save almost $200 million in foreign exchange every year if the Ethanol Bill is enacted and the economy adopts the 10-percent nonsugar-based for vehicle use. Gasoline proper supports the setting up of large ethanol production facilities should be no problem to Filipino engineers, given the numerous sugar mills we have and our extensive experience in sugarcane planting.

Even biodiesel, on the other hand, is a blend of indigenous coconut oil with the additive soya methyl ester (SME) and diesel fuel. The soya residue is feed—livestock enhancement grains. It doesn't affect engine efficiency. The DOE's estimate here is around 95 million every year. In savings, on the consumption then biodiesel will reduce by 5 percent the country's oil import outlook.

Aside from the benefits of cleaner air, a more realistic mixture of fuel and huge savings in foreign exchange, the use of alcogas and biodiesel will open more job opportunities in rural agricultural areas and strengthen the rural and economic industries.

The government must, therefore, come up with a clear commitment and long-term program to encourage and support producers to set up production and applications facilities for alcogas and biodiesel. At the same time, it must pursue a massive campaign, through the media, to educate Filipinos on the many benefits that they're derived from the use of biofuel blends. We can, perhaps, take a lesson or two from our neighbor Thailand, which has committed sugar and diplomats and are schooling around a 20 percent ethanol-diesel gas mix by year 2006.

—MICHAEL M.L. DOMINGUEZ,
Tandang Sora,
pennadel@yahoo.com

Private sector-initiated lifestyle check, anyone?

THE RECENT "BEHAVIOR CLINICS" official Gala gov's lifestyle check," written by Cielo Bonifacio, which was published on Page A2 of the broadsheet's first. 20 issue, deserved to be on the front page—to bring back a sense of guilt and shame from bureaucracy.

If we can turn cynic government corruption, which eats up more than P400 billion yearly from our annual budget, we could provide more and better education facilities, higher wages for school-teachers, better public health care services and facilities, and better roads for the commuters. And then, we can finally regain absolute compliance with the obligation to pay taxes.

The media should continue to assist in building by giving such exposes front-page treatment. The reports bring about public admiration and respect for the courageous and dedicated public servants who are not just merely living a life of shame.

I also encourage the formation of NGO lifestyle groups dedicated to actively detect, document and photograph the luxurious and lives of signature cars, condos and fabulous assets of prosecutors, judges and justices, including those in the Supreme Court.

Only a vigilant citizenry together with the fourth estate, acting as one with zeal and determination, can undo and curb corruption, a malaise eating and slowly buying the very second fiber and economic of our nation.

I, for one, would organize a lifestyle check on judicial officials—from the lowest court to the Supreme Court justices—so that they would truly live within their compensation packages.

Lifestyle checks, after all, are the biggest deterrent against corruption and the promotion of righteousness. The coalition reformers and members all over the country can be mobilized for the call to basic action. We hope other civic and civil society groups would join us in this movement.

—VICTOR PEDRO B.,
president,
Confederate Consumers
Protection & Welfare Inc.,
vicab@yahoo.com

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LETTERS

Pattern of looting unborn Filipinos

THE QUICK BUILT OF THE PRESIDENCY of the Arroyo administration bordered on projects that is the value of the country to the economic development of the country. There is absolutely no argument over this point. The construction of a railway system for the country has been recognized since colonial times. The construction of what is now the Philippine National Railways operation in Luzon started during the Spanish era in a narrow-gauge 1,566. And a comparison. The American era did not encourage the expansion of the railway system because it did not result in the growth both of the US farmer manufacturing industry.

But huge infrastructure projects become a bane to future generations when accounted by shoddy goals...as have been shown by many development projects undertaken by Ferdinand Marcos and pursued by his successors. When the projects were being implemented, they did give a semblance of prosperity by providing employment opportunities and yielding obvious benefits to the immediate present, until payback time when Filipinos realized they had justifiably much heavier the project implementers appropriated for themselves large portions of the borrowed funds and deposited these in foreign banks, one of the hoops of our economy. This is the justification for the investigations and prosecutions, if necessary, of the Northrail project of the Arroyo administration.

Known was a trailblazer for grand havoc against future generations who are to pay the piper. Big fat hit him in the billions of dollars now believed deposited in European banks. This is the determinant legacy of Marcos—a justice to Lasting Filipinos, yes no, no—hobbled capital he has no concern.

—EFRAIM E. IL,
Alabastro St.,
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

Historical fact based on documents

THAT IS IN CONNECTION WITH Ed Ilig's news report, wherein it was mentioned that according to Information Bernardino Reyes Guerrero, my father, Vicente B. Murano, was formally appointed mayor of Quezon City on Nov. 9, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942.

Pitted I was invited to speak at the session hall of Quezon City Gen. Gen. 3, I brought with me several documents and pictures from my father's memorabilia. One of them was the diploma-size appointment paper of my father, signed by President Quezon and his then executive secretary, Jose Vargas, dated Oct. 12, 1939, the day the city charter was signed.

There was no need for me to have an interpretation on how it was that my father's appointment paper, signed by President Quezon and his then executive secretary, Jose Vargas, dated Oct. 12, 1939, the day the city charter was signed.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Edna Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florelio S. Balmisano

Artificial reefs double fish harvest

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Princess, Citizen Desk Star

ON WHAT WAS ONCE barren sea floor, coral clusters have emerged from concrete cubes in the fish sanctuary in the Ragay Gulf off the village of Carranan in Pinamalco, Camarines Sur.

Francisco P. Ordoñez, 53, fish self-fed over the stream of marine bounty in the 146 hectare coastal area since he and other concerned divers and fishermen installed the artificial reefs 14 years ago in the gulf, facing the Mindoro Island group.

At present, Ordoñez said, 73 species of living corals in the sanctuary are inhabited by creatures of varying sizes, shapes, colors and textures.

Colorful worms, such as sea feathers and lilies, and other marine species are back in the reefs, he said. An inventory also showed thriving shrimp and stinged species, which produce natural pearls.

Direct participation

Ordoñez, a habitat and fishing regulation officer of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, has been leading a team of divers and deputized fishermen in developing the Artificial Reef System (ARS) since 1991.

Before, he said, 53 percent of the original reef had been lost, mainly due to rampant dynamite fishing and other destructive fishing methods.

The BFAR project team has strived to redress the falsehood, one of the main stakeholders in the fisheries resources, in the experiment of coral reef rehabilitation using the ARS, in hope 60 percent of the 3,000 villagers are fishers.

Under the ARS, concrete hollow cubes are strategically clustered on the sea bottom to serve as incubators for coral growth and to establish new coral colonies.

Ordoñez said that after only one month of training, all the component fishermen were mobilized to help install the artificial reef modules in the marine reserve. Three motorized outrigger bancas ferried the reef-master modules, one at a time and weighing hundreds of kilograms, from the shore to a depth of at least 20 meters.

The fish sanctuary area established at the drop of the slope of a forest reserve, close to the marshalland shoreline and buffered within the marine reserve area, Ordoñez said.

"With the forest reserve area above, the fish sanctuary is free from all that allows forest overgrowth," he said.

AMONG the corals found in the Carranan fish sanctuary in Pinamalco, Camarines Sur, are (clockwise, from left) the rubbleng (Acropora sp.) and the elephant ear (Pocillopora sp.).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ordinance

In 1994, the municipal council passed an ordinance declaring the 113-ha reserve reserve and 33-ha fish sanctuary. It imposed a total fishing ban in the sanctuary, exceptonly for hook-and-line fishing.

The BFAR has deputized seven fishermen to serve them in enrolling violators.

One of them, demando Moreno, 46, said the ARS had doubled fish catch to an average of 18 kilos since the community-based resource management program was implemented.

Moreno was among the first to be trained by the BFAR in scientific diving using oxygen tanks. He said it was easy for him to learn the basics because as a former "compressor fisher," he was used to surviving for hours underwater on air pumped to the mouth through a plastic or rubber hose connected to a compressor on a banca.

He said he used a spear gun to catch fish and a flashlight wrapped in rubber straps.

Requirement

The BFAR community service services was among the requirements of the Fisheries Sector Program (FSP), its biggest single resource activity aimed at checking the fast destruction of fisheries resources all over the country.

Started in 1991 with funding from the Asian Development Bank, the five-year FSP integrated awareness education, organizing, skills training, alternative livelihood development, mangrove rehabilitation, environmental advocacy and artificial reef development.

In March, the program was implemented in the Ragay Gulf, Sies Bilgael Bay, Lagonoy Gulf and Sorsogon Bay.

To continue the intervention, the Fisheries Resource Management Program (FRMP) was launched in 1997.

Ordoñez openly boasted the fish-refuge-cum-artificial reefs technology, combined with awareness education on its use and advantages.

LT. GEN. Pedro Cabuay Jr. (right), 5th Ioc chief, explains to northern Quezon officials the mechanics of the charcoal briquetting machine being demonstrated by Maj. Gen. Efren Cruz, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

Military gives livelihood project to former rebs

By Ombi T. Malaluja
Real, Quezon

THE MILITARY'S SOUTHERN Luzon Command has introduced charcoal briquette-making project, a pioneering dollar venture using forest waste products, to former communist rebels and calamity victims in northern Quezon to provide them an additional source of livelihood.

On Sept. 13, Bobcats chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr. and other officials turned over two charcoal briquette-making machines, one electric manual hammer mill, and construction materials to the Reina Rebels Farmers Multipurpose during the launching of the Rebels (Dagiti Bisig Labsot ne Rahimpan) livelihood initiative center for the towns of Real, Infanta, General Nakar (Reina).

"These machines would go a long way to help alleviate the economic situation of former New People's Army rebels and their mass base and also some of the calamity victims," Cabuay said.

The charcoal briquette, which is locally sold at P15 a kilo, is now being studied by the government as another export item, he added.

Copied model

"We will be needing tons of charcoal briquettes in the coming months to be exported abroad," Cabuay said.

He said the machine model was replicated by the Southeast Research and Development Institute, the research arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources based in Los Baños, Laguna.

"We've already distributed more than 20 units of the manual briquette and hammer mill to different organizations. The machines are made by the soldiers themselves, thus reducing production cost," the Bobcats commander said.

A briquette costs P12,000 to the commercial market, while a motorized hammer mill is priced at P85,000.

Orly Bautista Jr., president of the farmers group, said soldiers had already trained them in charcoal briquette-making.

"We can produce a minimum of 100 kilos of charcoal briquettes a day from a single machine," he said.

Biomass waste

Members of the association have been decided by the export prospects of the finished product, he added.

Jun Robles, DENR representative, said the charcoal briquettes were produced from ordinary biomass waste, such as grass, twigs, leaves and tree branches.

The hammer mill crushes the burned raw materials and compacted into doughnut-like briquettes.

During a demonstration, the charcoal briquette emitted a smokeless steady heat with low ebon flame when burned. The charcoal had a longer burning period.

According to Santos, the generated heat from the charcoal briquette has a higher BTU (British thermal unit).

Bilateral Cmdr Asterio de Jesus, Artemio Ramallosa of Brgy. 42, and Fernando Arellanes of General Nakar have expressed confidence that the project would go a long way in providing livelihood among former rebels and calamity victims in their towns.

Across the NATION

NPAs kill 4 rival rebs in Negros

By Carlo P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—SUSPECTED NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) hit men on Tuesday killed four members of a rival rebel group and seriously wounded another in front of a convenient store in a hinterland village in Calatrava town, Negros Occidental.

The police identified the fatalities as Abraham Lumanog, Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) town leader, and his aide, Dionisio Comadlo, Carlos Juliata and Bambit Alcoba Jr., 17, all of Calatrava town, about 142 km south of here.

Police Lumanog, Abraham's brother, suffered multiple bullet wounds and remained in serious condition at the district hospital in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Juliata and Comadlo were the brothers-in-law of the Lumanogs.

Senior Supt. Charito Calma, Negros Occidental police director, said the RPA-ABB members were lounging out in front of the store owned by Jessie Abante in Sitio Camansilab, Barangay Dolis, when the attack happened at about 5:30 p.m.

Camansilab is a hinterland village located 12 km from the town proper of Calatrava, an influential area of the RPA-ABB.

Calma said the NPA rebels used three short firearms taken from reportedly three of the victims.

The assailants then took the long firearms of the victims and used these to shoot them at close range to make sure that they were indeed dead.

Taken from the victims were two M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, a Garand rifle and an M203 grenade launcher, said Calma.

Calma said separate teams of policemen and Army soldiers were conducting pursuit operations against the assailants in northern Negros Occidental.

He added three had been raised over possible raids and killings by the NPA especially because they acquired new firearms, which they took from the rebels.

Col. Jojo Ian Ryan, Biñed Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said the NPA hit men were believed to be rebels rebel graduates on a red mission.

He said the witnesses identified the assailants as young, between 20 to 25 years old, and were unidentified by the villagers.

Police said the parents of the victim was unable to be said questioned on a military detachment in Tabunan town, Cebu last month, which left three soldiers dead.

He added the February attack was staged by new rebel graduates on a test mission.

REAL THREAT, FAKE WAR
US Marines take positions at a beachheading exercise in Tarsara, Cavite with Philippine soldiers. The annual war games have taken on an urgency in the Philippines bonded US-backed offensive against terrorist groups in Mindanao.

Hard times make job prospects for youth dim

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE economic crisis will further dim the employment opportunities of young graduates and the Bureau of Youth Commission expressed fears that this development will further swell the number of unemployed people.

Based on the findings of a 1999 national youth assessment study, 17 million youth are unemployed, Ruel Iddio, presidential staff officer of BYC's planning, monitoring and evaluation division, said.

He said the number was projected 49 percent of the country's 35 million unemployed people.

Unless youth activists and the institutional capacities of government and nongovernmental organizations are maximized, Iddio said, there would be no reason to worry that the country's young people looked headed toward a bleak future, she said.

Iddio said BYC, whose offices revealed the findings of the youth assessment study before regional youth congress held at the capital here recently.

Iddio, however, refused to drag the BYC to comment on the effects of the political problems besetting the current administration on youth programs.

"The BYC is a nonpolitical organization. We just concentrate on coordinating youth councils and problems," she told the Inquirer.

But Board Member Jane Kanero Jr. said the youth must be more conscious of their participation in understanding political and economic issues that confront them.

Speaking before the youth congress, he said the "youth must not take their role and not to act idly. Be actively participating in activities designed to make them aware aware of pressing national and regional concerns."

In Benguet alone, he said, the youth must keep abreast of developments that directly affect their parents, like issues concerning coal exploration in the province.

Iddio said that the youth's attention now "really looked discouraging."

The youth assessment study, she said, revealed that only 30 percent of all Filipino youth who capable but high school graduates are had their act all high school graduate, get to finish secondary school.

"This represents the number of students dropouts," she said.

Dyhmar Cerviño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 20

PRESENTS

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Bird flu watch up in Paoay

By Cristina Arradon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Comfort woman leader dies

DOJ junks raps vs Germans

Judge wounded in ambush

American dies in road crash

Locals dominate Boracay

Erratum

MMDA suspends 'no contact' scheme

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) has suspended a traffic scheme that a Makati City court declared unconstitutional.

On Friday, the MMDA stopped implementation of the No Contact Traffic Apprehension (NCTA) scheme. The Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) issued an injunction for the scheme last May. The MMDA suspended the Motorist Assistance Traffic Tokening (MTT) scheme earlier.

"MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando ordered the suspension because of legal questions. We will temporarily stop until we have positive issues resolved," said Celia Santiago, MMDA Metropolitan Road Safety Enforcement System (MMRESS) chief who also heads the agency's NCTA Unit.

The MMDA had petitioned the Court of Appeals to reverse the lower court decision. The agency's motion for reconsideration was denied by the Makati regional trial court (RTC) that ordered the MMDA to stop enforcing the MTT and NCTA following a suit filed by transport groups questioning the schemes. Under the NCTA, traffic enforcers in motorcycles (motorbikers used) still and video cameras to document traffic violations. Enforcers could order and flag errant motorists even without issuing tickets personally. The suspension of the RCTA scheme followed the deferment of the MTT system, with the agency reverting to the old Traffic Violators Receipts (TVR) system on orders of the Cabinet.

Under the MTT tokening scheme, the confiscation of license of errant drivers was stopped. Traffic fine payment was simplified by allowing motorists to pay in Metrobank branches.

The NCTA suspension would put on hold the agency's plan to run after at least 155 erring motorists that incurred a total of 6,700 violations since April this year. Violators come from 31 bus companies. The buses were supposed to be impounded for failing to use their bus numbers, despite several notices from the MMDA. Together with a P1,000 surcharge for failing to post number, the fine totals to P1.29 million.

Santiago said that although there would be no apprehensions and impounding, violations would remain in MMDA records.

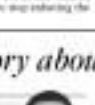
Santiago admitted the NCTA suspension could weaken the MMDA's apprehension capability.

"The efficiency in apprehension is affected. First, the NCTA is efficient because motorists traffic cameras could catch an average of 100 violators a day, while officers could make, at the most, 40 arrests," Santiago explained.

The RCTA also addressed schemes and more human apprehension of violators as it did away with personal contact between violators and enforcer. Enforcers did not have to stop violators, so they could issue tickets, thus helping eliminate corruption, the official added.

Santiago said the NCTA Unit's 10 operators at digital cameras would be assigned to other operations in the meantime. The video and still cameras would be used to monitor traffic.

That story about Julius Babao



ON TARGET
Raymund Jaylo

IGNACIO ESPEJO, THE WOMAN-slide press secretary and close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo told me about ABS-CBN broadcaster Julius Babao was all "off the record."

Rarely should have that asked his boss' whether I had her permission to have her quoted on the record. I asked the President whether or not she was willing to go on the record, and she said yes.

I also asked Bunye's boss if I could have the story as an exclusive exclusive. And she said yes.

The President told this reporter-cum-lunch last Thursday that she found "very disturbing" a military intelligence report saying that Babao put up bail to Tyrone del Rosario Santos, the Dawud faction.

Dawud Santos, according to military intelligence, is involved in communist in the Sayab Islamic Movement (MSM), a group of Muslim converts allied with Abu Sayyaf and the international terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Dawud is charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives before the regional trial courts of Pangasinan and Isabela.

During the hearings on his petition for bail, which Babao attended, Dawud's lawyer told the Quezon City regional trial court that his client could not afford to post the bail set at P500,000.

But after talking to Babao during a court recess, the lawyer, Hermenio Mendoza, said bail would be put up, and the report from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

It's surprising why the lawyer would say that his client could already post bail after talking to the broadcaster when security earlier he said his client could not afford it.

That's the least of the DAEP report cited Babao put up bail for Dawud.

Now back to Bunye. Let me remind the honorable press secretary, who talks too much for the good of her boss, that I wouldn't have wanted this saga in my career if I didn't respect my sources' request not to be quoted.

Of the record conversations with news sources should be respected. Always. A journalist who violates a promise of confidentiality will eventually crash in the drying up of his information pool.

I am what I am today because I have never violated the trust of my sources of information. Let me tell Bunye that in my institution context I went to jail twice for refusing to divulge to the courts the identities of my sources.

Now back to Babao. How come he was so protective of Dawud that he had him ride on ex-ABS-CBN van after his release from detention?

And here comes another APFU.

Intelligence chief Rear Adm. Tirso Dumpuyaan, Babao declined the offer for Dawud's escort?

A journalist should be objective when he's covering a controversial case. He should not take sides.

When Babao posted bail for Dawud and had him ride on an ABS-CBN van, he was already taking the side of a person accused of terrorism.

The only charge that the government could come up with against Dawud was illegal possession of firearms and explosives because the country still doesn't have an antiterrorism law or sustained security act like the ones they have in Malaysia and Singapore.

The implosives seized from Dawud, the military said, would have been used in bombing public places.

If Dawud factory jumps bail—and there's a big chance he will—Babao should be made to account for his becoming a fugitive from justice.

Babao should also be held responsible for innocent lives lost if Dawud goes on a bombing spree while in hiding.

Dump still open

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TRIUMPH/PILIPAN SOLID WASTE Disposal Facility will remain open until the end of the year, Mayor Ricky Carandang of Bodegayan, Rizal said yesterday.

Carandang said he was willing to wait until early next year for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to build or secure "genuine" to the facility.

The mayor issued the ban days last week for the facility that services 10 cities and towns in Metro Manila, after the MMDA turned down his proposal to increase dumping fees. Carandang had a dumps of local and proposed the facility after a meeting with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. The MMDA said it could not open to the new increase this year because the new law not included in the annual budget.

Carandang said the MMDA promised to consider incorporating the proposed increase in the agency's budget next year. The MMDA had paid P20 million to the local government and the private operator of the Montalban facility, Ecotopia said. When it was closed last week, the MMDA owed the facility P10 million.

Though the mayor was willing to wait until early next year for the proposed fee hike to be approved, he said he would still ask the MMDA to pay its arrears. He also wanted the MMDA to close the Pinugay Controlled Dump in Quezon City, which still accepts garbage, despite Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act mandates that all open and controlled dumps be closed next year.

At least one environmental organization is unhappy about the continued operation of the Montalban facility. "We are pushing for the permanent closure of the garbage dump," Rangoon Eddieson Muertegui president Joey Reyes told the Inquirer. He said it was time for the metropolis to implement strictly waste segregation at household and barangay levels.

Although Carapo said the 14-hectare facility in Montalban met legal requirements, Reyes said the continued operation of the facility violated the law. The dump, which received some 1,500 tons of garbage from Metro Manila daily accepted mixed garbage not segregated waste, Reyes said.

"The law provides that landfills should accept only residual waste," he added.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines

STATEMENT

We, the Board of Governors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, are outraged by the news reports of an impending executive clemency for the convicted child-rapist, former Congressman Romeo G. Jalosjos.

Jalosjos was convicted in a public trial, without regard to his position and on the merits of the case. Two (2) life terms of imprisonment were imposed on him by the lower court, and this same judgment and penalty were twice affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Any executive clemency for Jalosjos is obnoxious, anathema, and in complete disregard of public sentiment and all laws, rules and regulations on the matter. The fact that Jalosjos may be ill is irrelevant. Life imprisonment means death in prison.

Jalosjos is fortunate that he has extraordinary financial resources to receive excellent medical care despite his imprisonment. Public reports reveal that he is often brought to Makati Medical Center or some other 5-star medical facility for "treatment".

Political considerations, exercised for private benefit, must have no place in public life nor may political accommodations thwart the ends of justice.

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

JOSE ANSELMO I. CADIZ
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FELICIANO M. BAUTISTA
Executive Vice President
Governor for Central Luzon

ROMULO A. RIVERA
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THE IBP CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

METRO
Editor Rose G. Dipasupil

Unending vigil for 'desaparecido'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A TWO-DECADE-OLD PROMISE SUSTAINS Phoebe Catuiza's search for her husband who was disappeared outbreak crimes.

"Every my enemies in a place where even you may go," Catuiza recalled her husband's parting words. He promised she would do so.

Missing

Catuiza said she and her husband, Romeo, were just on their fifth month of marriage when he went missing.

Yesterday she joined 20 other families of victims of involuntary disappearance or desaparecido in the Bantayog ng mga Desaparecido, a memorial at the Redeemer Church, Frontenaque City, to mark All Souls' Day.

The monument shows a sculpture of a mother and child, carved on it are the names of many of those who disappeared since 1971.

Offerings

In the absence of bodies to visit, families of desaparecidos, carrying pictures of their missing loved ones, gather at the monument to offer flowers and prayers.

Catuiza admitted that though it has been 25 years since she last saw her husband, the pain is still there. "Romeo was a good man. He deserves a decent burial," she said.

Romeo was a militant student leader who later became a professor at St. Louis College and the Lagayan Colleges in Tagaytay City.

"Marcos who spoke against the government then faced arrest," Catuiza said.

Only 24 then, Romeo was last seen in the afternoon of Aug. 22, 1980 at the gate of St. Louis College.

"But he was never able to enter the campus. The military caught him off on found a blue Tamaraw," she said, referring the informations she gathered from Romeo's students.

After his abduction, Catuiza, then a high school teacher in Isabela, would wake up early in the morning to look for him in military camps before going to her classes.

Romeo's younger brother, Louie, who had become her close friend, accompanied the young mother to the camps in the north.

The quest continued for two years, until the military told them Romeo was already dead.

"They told me that they don't keep people that long," Catuiza said.

The military allegedly ordered her to "accept the truth" and move on.

But that didn't stop her. "I believed that I would find him sometime. I thought that by those persistence and the cooperation of church-based organizations, I would retrieve, she had him," she said.

The search for Romeo dragged in 1987.

She and Louie, who found themselves in love with each other, got married and had four children.

Memorial service

The couple held a memorial service for Romeo before their wedding, one way of asking for his blessings, Catuiza said.

"But our search for justice does not end there," she said, adding that the pain and feeling of loss still haunted her.

"The pain comes back because the issue of his disappearance remains unresolved. It is our part of my life that needs closure," she said.

Yesterday, Catuiza renewed that vow. Most of all, she said she intended to keep her promise to bury him in a place close to her.

The Catuizas are one of the founders of Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), a nationwide organization of families, relatives and friends of disappeared.

FAMILIES of victims of involuntary disappearance, or desaparecidos, again gathered in front of a memorial at the Redeemer Church yesterday to remember their missing loved ones. In photo are Phoebe Gamara Catuiza, Paolo S. Romero and Louie Catuiza. (JOAN BONDOC)

METROBRIEFS

No rallies today, please

All Eid'l-Adha celebrates Eid'l Fitr today a Muslim leaders asked fellow Filipinos to help observe their special day by maintaining peace and order in the streets. "We ask our Christian brothers and sisters to respect our holiday as much as ours," Datu Kasan-Adiong Adiong, president of the National Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council (NMPOCC) said in a phone interview. "We would appreciate it if any postponed activities such as rallies and demonstrations would be done to our prayers and subsequent celebrations," Adiong said, adding that they consider Eid'l Fitr "as the most important Muslim holiday. Adiong said they would hold their prayers from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. at mosques and Muslim communities all over the country. Other Muslim groups would later gather at Luneta, Rizal Park, and Rizal Park in Manila and at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. Eid'l Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which Muslims abstain from food, water and sex for 30 days from dawn to dusk. It is one of the few major religious holidays in the Muslim world and one of seven Muslim holidays recognized in the local Shariah (Islamic) law contained in Presidential Decree No. 1083. **Maryanne T. Ortiz**

Marketing bikes

LOOKING Lower Bonifacio residents will soon meet you more. Private transportation slightly was starting the other day of the biggest public market in the metropolis. And vendors at the Mabuhay Public Market are hoping for further increases of thousand-fare days. Bikers if another rising volume of old and electricity as well as the approaching Christmas season. Prices of vegetables from Baguio City the cultivated commodity, shocking vegetable, economic like cold winds of cavots, potatoes at P75 a kilo continued to be sold at P100 a kilo. Fish prices remained by The P50 going rate for other kinds. Ng: A kilo of milkfish is P100 a kilo. Fish is P120 a kilo, other vegetables ha just P30. Bankers believe the supply and source. They usually increase prices when the supply is low. "Single mother BAGONG. The long holiday break could have contributed to the low supply since vendors also took a break, she added. The prices will surely rise to the same low days because of the season of price increase. Car dealers were able to transport their goods," another vendor said. Because of the implementation of the color-coded law (RA 7845, which required a 10-percent tax on personally exempt individuals, owners of all products were the other day. **Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

QC hospitals get donations

A FACT-FACT physician based in the United States has donated $200,000 worth of medicines, medical and supplies to the Eastern City quarantined for the city-run QC General Hospital. Dr. Maria Dupitito, who specialized internal medicine for 34 years in the U.S., has donated a 40-foot container containing hospital beds, incubators, birthing tables, syringes and needles, among other medical equipment to the city, according to the city's public affairs and information service officer Pelmo. The equipment will be distributed to different wards of the QCGH, including the trauma, surgery and rehabilitation wards, among others. The Novaliches District Hospital will also benefit from the donation. Experts first made a similar contribution to Pasay City, according to Pelmo. **Ed Pia**

Studies to learn QC history

QUEZON City students will soon be learning about not just former Presidents but just city mayors with a plan to integrate the city's 50-year history of development in the curriculum of public high schools. Students outlined with a book, former Philippine Presidents like Manuel Quezon, after whom the city is named, and Ramon Magsaysay, among others, but former mayors such as Teresa Morato and Norman Bernardo. Local officials said in a book, "Makinis at Mayamong ang Pamayanan City" as reference for students. Including themselves the roots of the city, Quezon founded in 1939, and Ato Edgar Amihan Bautista. The local school board on recommendation from the city government, would integrate the city's history of development in the geography-history-civics subject of public high schools, he said. The city government would also all teachers, architects and other experts for the project that the city planning bangs over school year. Bautista added. **Ed Pia**

SPORTS

Email us at ... Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa

Alaska crushes Red Bull

RED BULL'S Qyntrevel Greer (left) attempts a trip in against Alaska's Tim McCoy. PHOTO

By Jane Navarro

ARTHUR MCCLARY FINISHED AN assist shy of another triple double as Alaska survived a fight-marred encounter against Red Bull Barako by posting a resounding 61-44 win last night in the Ron Ellis Coffee PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

McClary chilled in 23 of his 31 points in the second half, handed down 10 rebounds and had nine assists for the Aces' fourth straight win that showed themselves true with their second coming Purefoods Hotdog Tender Juicy at 5-2.

Dan Alinda and playmaker Gabby Ulak were ejected with barely two minutes left and the west ahead, 72-63, following an altercation that saw Alinda catching to the floor on a hard foul by Mick Pennisi.

"It's always a battle when we play Red Bull," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "Three things stood to the fore but it's a matter of keeping one's poise. Dan (Alinda) lost it for a minute."

Alinda slapped Enrico Villanueva, who was trying to prevent him from going to Pennisi, while Ulak, rushing from the other side of the court, swung at Ulit Alaska power forward as officials tried to put things under control.

Play was disrupted for almost 10 minutes more as Alinda and Cone were automatic ejectees for game suspensions. Pennisi escaped ejection.

When play resumed, McClary provided an unending Alaska breakaway that put the Aces in control for good.

"We're not to imitate what we have though it's really painful to lose him (Alinda)," said Cone, whose Aces face the trailing Talk 'N Text Phone Pals next week.

"There's so much at stake in this game that it didn't surprise me that it happened. Hopefully, it does not go beyond there," he added.

The Barako short-handed team (2-5 pers.) on 23-of-91 shooting and took their third defeat in seven games after a three-game run.

Qyntrevel Greer led Red Bull with 17 points, the same output of Alaska's top-load, Tony dela Cruz. Lordy Tugade chipped in 13 for the Bisons.

Montaña, Hapee eye strong starts

POC ready for court battle against BAP

By Marvey R. Corvilla

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee is ready for the football association of the Philippines lawsuit.

"We will assist Ohsin in court," said POC chair Robert Aventajado yesterday. "They are making a [illegible] an offense [illegible] already."

The 17-page lawsuit, filed by BAP legal counsel Rustiniano dismissed before a Regional Trial Court in Manila yesterday afternoon, seeks to reinstate the BAP to the local Olympic movement.

It was accompanied by all the correspondences of the POC, BAP and the sport's international federation since the rift broke out in May.

The BAP suit, though, failed to point out at the first page that it is no longer recognized by the POC. Meeng Soon signified by the POC general assembly last June 30.

Christian Tan, BAP executive vice president, and Angelito Alvarez, deputy secretary general of the case. Named respondents were POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., secretary Steve Hontiveros and Aventajado.

Basketball competitions to start the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games after Ike Pilo rejected a POC appeal last weeks ago.

This is actually the second time since 2001 that the heated battle has ascended the courts.

InqBox Question of the Week

How will the November 1 implementation of eVAT affect your life?

Smokers of choice' (E-Tech as published in Tuesday's InqBox ed, each issue as 'Inquirer Short's)

Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message. Text your answers to 2107 (Globe) or 281 (Smart) (Maximum of 160 characters)

Inquirer will not encourage/acknowledge address

Euro boxers help RP pugs sharpen fists for SEAG

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Cebu sports editor

BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR, (THE PHILIPPINES) — Eight famous bantamweights, will host the first of three Asian Boxing Confederation Gold Belt boxing tournaments featuring European fighters against three Filipino counterparts starting Saturday.

Another Boxing Association of the Philippines (Baap) "I" Lopez eventweight and the events will open up the International Joint Training Camp designed to toughen Filipino boxers in the coming 22nd Southeast Asian Games and set the same tone preparatory for the coming World Boxing Championships slated here 11 to 12nd.

Lopez said both Thais, Australia, Brazil and Sri Lanka are already in the country's summer capital preparing for the much-awaited clashes which will also be held on Nov 7 (Boxers, SEA Region) and Nov. 9 in San Fernando, La Union.

The 10-man Italian team is coming today while Germany, France and Holland are coming on Friday.

Asian champion light flyweight Mary Tolentino and bantamweight Jean Tipon are expected to banner the country's bid.

"I am confident that our boxers will win, 6th (from this)," added Lopez, a member of the technical and rules committee of the International Amateur Boxing Association.

He thanked Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon for hosting the event. He Wilson Alberto Australian office for the Hi-Event and then, Victor Ortega, Nes Ion, Aaron Haro and Mayor Jose Ortega for the San Fernando, La Union, etc.

Alvaro Olympics silver medalist Arianne Thomas of France leads a stellar cast of European amateur boxers.

Joining Thomas of France are elite Kristiane Santamaria of Germany and superheavyweight Roberto Cammarelle, who won a bronze for Italy in Athens.

Other boxers are Germans Andrea Peuja, featherweight; Enrico Wagner, lightweight; and Ricardo Brga, welterweight; Italians Alfonso Mete, light-flyweight; Vincenzo Picardi, flyweight; Domenico Valentino, lightweight; Cosmin Cirtic, light-welterweight; and Clemente Russo, heavyweight; Ireland's Conor Alcorn, flyweight; Tim Donovan, feather-weight; and Ivo Buzalsa, welterweight.

Spurs get rings, start season with a victory

SAN ANTONIO—TONY PARKER SCORED 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and newcomer Michael Finley added 13 points for the Spurs, who beat Dallas 11 points to tie the period as Jose Johnson drilled a 3-pointer with :01 left. Tuesday's clash in San Antonio (Mark Cuban) Arena before 18 in chickens.

Before the game, San Antonio unveiled its third championship banner in the rafters of the SBC Center and NBA commissioner David Stern was on hand for the team's remaining players to receive their championship rings.

"I'd like to thank you for your continued support over to and you can," starring forward Tim Duncan told co-hearing boosters crowd. "We've had some good times and we'd like to bring another championship back to San Antonio."

The Spurs recently removed that ball on the top, but, trailing for most of the second half until Finley hit a go-ahead (3-footer) shot to put the Spurs up 79-76 with about nine minutes remaining in the game.

"The guys have embarrassed me with open rooms and I was getting more comfortable," Finley said. "I knew when I was getting into. When I signed, coach Gregg Popovich told me my role would be to come off the bench."

Parker, who finished with 16 points, then hit another jumper followed by a 3-pointer.

The Spurs scored 10 first for from the field in the fourth quarter.

Robert Orr lightning-quick point guard, has been working with shooting guru and former Philippine team conductor Chip Engelland on improving his mid-range game.

Orr scored 4 points in the rookie so far inside 13-of-20 shots, many of them from the perimeter.

Duncan had 19 points and 20 rebounds for the Spurs and Manu Ginobili added 16 points.

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 25 points, while Kenyon Martin added 19. Eduardo Najera scored 14 and Nuggets fell to 0-3.

In Philadelphia, Michael Redd hit the game-tying 3-pointer in regulation Tuesday and scored 30 points to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 117-108 overtime win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Redd's 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds left tied the game at 2903-1952, forcing the Bucks to rally from seven points down with three minutes left and helped make Terry Stotts a winner in his 441-season coaching debut.

TJ Ford scored 24 points and had 14 assists in his first game after cervical spine surgery cost him all of last season.

Australia's Andrew Bogut, the fifth No. 1 draft pick who was college player of the year at Utah last season, counted for the Bucks and added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Allen Iverson scored 36 points and had nine assists, and Chris Webber added 32 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the losers.

The loss spoiled the return of Maurice Cheeks to his Philadelphia coaching debut. One of the most popular players in franchise history, Cheeks has a storied No. 10 jersey and a 1983 championship history hanging in the rafters.

In Oklahoma City, Jr Smith scored 18 points and had five electrifying dunks as New Orleans beat Oklahoma City, 92-85, to mark the first of 10 Hornets home games in Oklahoma City.

The celebration began with a street party outside the Ford Center, three and one hours before the start of the sold-out arena in the Hornets. 18-64 last season, host a fringe team expected to contend.

In Phoenix, Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Dallas overcame a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Suns, 111-106, after two overtime periods.

The late-starting season opener Saturday ended just after midnight local time.

Nowitzki took a pair of long jumpers and Josh Howard made a 3-pointer in the second overtime. After Steve Nash missed a shot with 2 seconds to play, Steve Nash missed what would have been a game-tying 3-pointer as the Mavericks escaped.

Jason Terry added 22 points for Dallas, including the game-tying layup in the end of the first overtime.

AP-Reuters, AFP

AFTER receiving their rings [near] for winning the title last year, the San Antonio Spurs immediately go to work for this year, taking on Tony Parker's fourth-quarter heroics to defeat Marcus Camby and the Denver Nuggets. Left photo shows star forward Tim Duncan receiving his 2005 NBA championship ring from Johnnie Holt, wife of Spurs owner Peter Holt...during ceremonies before the season opener.

Manotoc, RP up in Aspac seniors

By Manang B. Castillo

TERRY MANOTOC HAS A two-under par 70 yesterday leading Team Philippines to a six-stroke lead over Australia after New Zealand after the first round of the 15th Asia Pacific Seniors tournament at the Wuyi Mountain Villa resort in Fong Men, China.

The 56-year-old Manotoc, the defending individual champion, got ample support from Francis Gaston (72), Jose Clavecilla (74), and Wenceslao Aguirre Cabrera (74) to battle Down Under, while Australia at 74 for the Filipinos amassed 293.

Dave Rodney Rodney, despite losing putting the 18th for double, led the individual race with a 69 and boosted New Zealand also on three-shot of the third-running tied defending team champion Australia (288).

Each country holds six players with the top three scores counting for the tournament score for 54 holes. Individual play is for 72 holes.

Cebu Goodwills (77) and reigning RP Senior champion Rolly Tiong (81), playing in his first tournament outside of a senior, did not count for the Philippines.

SPORTSWATCH

Vigan hosts cycling search final leg

ALONG OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE MIRIAM TO TAKE LEGEND European invitational season with the wins in the final leg of the cycling Search established Senior Interclub in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. Director Ric Rodriguez said the affirmation of the race will be the outside-the-road competition for amateur racers. The organizers are Mig Light, Pagasa Davao FC sports, Fatima Transport, 711, Ilocos sur, Asiatico overseas sports operator and Ark vans. The tournament scheduled is organized by Tour Team and Development Corp., assists also backed by Gen. Luis "Tinay" Empino, Mayor Eusebio Mallillin, Provincial Treasurer, Virgilio Bautista, Bishop Lucing Mesias Orillana and Governor Vigan.

Legupan, Mallawa share honors

THE 2-TOWNSHIP CHEMICAL—SECONDARY COMPLEX OF ANGLO SPA OF Francisco Antonio and Jose Legupan and Mallawa, Ilocos Norte—the two championships of the ILOMP Big Board for 4-day battle held south of the Ilocos Gobernador Chi Complex with seven wins each. Tournament Most outstanding players are again awarded as ILOAP outstanders classic for the coastal Diaglipahan of the two Vigan cities, first since Governor Chi Complex. The "Diaglipahan" at least one Ilocos tournament after the 61-stage event to be awarded in Ilocos Norte. ILOC will present the Ilocos 5-ring derby today with more than 150 fighters on top.

Big-time 3-star event at LPC

THE BIG TIME 3-STAR EVENT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AT THE LAS PIÑAS Golf Course, the first of the year for the Philippine Golf Association. Members from leading groups like GOAT Wolf and PGAP seven participate compete in the tournament to be hosted by the Las Piñas Municipality. The first 20 winners of LPC's regular Ina Flights from Monday to Sunday will receive a bonus of P1,000 each, according to golfmen makeups After Tuition. The "regulars" started GO, SEAD and AT & ZIP 9.

Baligon derby screening set

COACHES AND PRESIDENTS MAY BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO SUPERMARKET TOP Baligon Mayor Leonardo Cabrera Chamber Cup derby to begin today, October Nov. 10. Screening will be held today and Nov 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members of parties may call 911-2275, 833-7109 and 892-9872. Ships personnels handled by Ship Federal derby are included. Those handled by Ships Covered by "Customer" (applied on class allowed Other big boards only).

ILIGAN SHOOTFEST: Congressman Jordan Jesus Bermudez (fourth from right) and actor Eddie Garcia (third from left) graced the opening of the season Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Lluch Cup tournament held recently in Iligan City. Joining them, from left, are Frederick Siu, Simplicio Lumarchal, Mayor Celso Sagara presidente Jose Maria Basilio, councilor Rudy Pita Lo and Ramon Lara.

Ateneo Lady Eagles rout SBC-Alabang

ATENEO CRUISED TO ITS THIRD straight win by crushing San Beda College-Alabang, 58-34, Sunday in the college division of the Women's Basketball League (WBL) at the San Beda Mendiola campus in Manila.

A four 15-9 third-quarter run was all the Lady Eagles needed to outscore the Bedans.

Forward Langsiton and Jacqueline Whanie starred for Ateneo with 24 and 16 points, respectively.

The 20-year-old Langsiton poured in eight of her output in the fourth quarter during a 12-4 Blue Eagles' game thrown a 34-26 lead with three minutes left in the game.

"We're planning to bend so we can be more game and we are not taking care from lightly," said Ateneo coach Rosemarie Jose Ignacio.

In the other college games, Jennifer Cagampang scored 12 points to power Miriam College past De La Salle University, 65-58, and St. Scholastica's College trounced Assumption College, 49-26.

In the high school division, De La Salle Zobel dominator the boards of Mario Edera Mateo to trip JASMS, 54-38, St. Scholastica's College beat Jose Rodis-Manila, 71-59, and Miriam-Ashbrook Caloocan edged Immaculate Conception College, 77-68.

It was New Era University over University of the Philippines Integrated School, 64-14; School of St. Anthony over Community of Learners, 41-20; and Col. com OB Montessori, 29-13, in the high school development level.

Assumption College stunned De La Salle-Zobel, 26-22, in the first elementary division game.

Barcelona, Montilla stake belts Saturday

THE BARCELONA WILL DEFEND his Philippine super flyweight title in the first time against second-ranked Celso Montilla in one of the main events of a fourth "Pesoland" boxing at the San Andres sports complex.

The 24-year-old Barcelona is looking for his third straight win after a string of three defeats.

A southpaw, Barcelona can pointed Celso Enriquez on Aug. 20 at the Tunas Memorial gym in Bacoor to retain the SP title.

Montilla, managed by Steffi Gulabin's first, Manolo Pikiri, has a fight record of 21 wins, 10 by knockout, seven losses and five draws.

Against, Bangged, Barcelona will be fighting a veteran fighter who has fought 46 times since 1995, amassing 23 times against 20 losses and 3 5 draws.

The other 12-round title fight pits reigning IBF lightweight champion Fernando Montiel of Mexico City against Dexter Dekdak of Cebu.

Montilla won the title by knocking out Ike Ildefonso on Dec. 11, 2004 in Tagaig, Rizal.

The card, put up by Boxingbusiness Inc., hopes to raise P600,000 for the original funds of the two-time world champion Landry Ramos who is locked in a concave one over on unclaimed P1,000,000.

The first 1,000 spectators will get free admission at the venue, courtesy of world champion Mercito Pesquiera who pledged P 100,000.

Ramos is expected to attend the event. The first fight starts at 4 p.m.

All Sins Day (Seen at the cemetery)

THIS IS FOR THE LIVING

The dead need no living
The living know nothing to choose
Like soldiers, they love all day like ours.
All around us are grasses and weeds beneath.

The seasons, dictators cold, no-nothing
Still-created bonds (steps) of bound & till
Alas, like nuts, athletes fast till they fall.
There is made to cost numbers are no space
There is drink (cold) the spirit till it feels cool
There is not to die dead but for the living.
Onward, like soldiers, the sun shows its
flickering.

Acme Sig Mga Karaluan
(Walang Di-Sa Inaasahang)
Di ay para sa mga buhay
Hindi na kailangan pang sandok ang mga
patay
Kahimanan hindi mahilig sa bandos ang
buhay
Tulad sa sibat, hinggan sa magkapang
mga kahalikan.

Sa ating pagligid sa mga dawit mamatandang

SPECTATOR

Al V. Mendoza

hanahinga
Ang mamatay, ay magkakaisang, at may nanagsang sa
Ilang mamatay ay mga ang mga tagito at
kakalaunan ka
At, naka sa hinggan, aden't kakilan hanggang kanggo.
May nagsigang 'sand'y gumang kakaan ang
nagsakan
Mas masarap ang nagsigang sa napakin sandy
ang
Di'y hindi para sa patay kundi para sa
buhay
Anumanuman, nakad sa aden, hinggan sa
kakilan kakanakakan.

Apat Dipatay Kanilaan
(Anumang Kaylaanan ay)
ayaw para kakat at kakilan
Apakakanakakan ay nangakakaw aaaay ka
nagpat kakipan, kakasad sa akakay sa
kanilan
Sinagp aden, nanagsa nan nanasangakan a
kapkan
Magakan ay akakay at aka ka
nanandakanasangan
Sa nanakan, ngk nakanakad, ka aden ya
aaken
Sa nan ngk sa kaka sa kaka at panagsipagk da sa
nakakanakad
Ngk' sinap gaken, nay nagaken dana aden
ngaken nanan
Naka nagkay at kaken ka kakanan ang aden
Naka nanasan at kaka ka kinga sa ngak
kakipan
Ka nyak pasad nakakay aken ngaka kanay
sa kai, sinap aken, nagaken gaken ka
nakakay

* * *

E-mail: nospa@philnet.net

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

VAT-related oil issues worry gov't

ADB ISSUES P3.5-B PESO BONDS
The Asian Development Bank recently launched its inaugural Philippine Peso bond issue with a maturity of 3 years, with HSBC as the lead manager and sole bookrunner. The issue was another of milestones in the local capital market: the first issue by a foreign entity, the first unprecedented move and the first investment-grade debt by Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Leading the signing ceremony for the issue are (from left) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., HSBC CEO Pharoah Manning and ADB vice president for finance and administration Rheinglantino Pantoja.

2% 'presumptive' tax, 5% impost on sale to gov't agencies

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENERGY and of Finance are working together to address issues on the value-added tax (VAT) that will affect the oil industry, including the 2-percent presumptive tax and the 5-percent withholding tax on sale to government entities.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the industry had expressed concern over the possibility of having to pay a 2-percent presumptive input tax.

As it now stands, VAT payers, be registered (VAT) firms and traders would be subjected to this presumptive tax.

The presumptive input tax will be computed against the output tax, equivalent to 2 percent of the gross value of their purchases of materials used as inputs to production.

The DOE said the DOF would have to work on specific guidelines for the slapping of the presumptive, Lotilla said.

Another concern, he said, was related to the reduction in tariff on crude and refined petroleum products from 3 percent to 2 percent starting Nov. 1.

He said the DOE would have to work out a scheme with the DOF to make fuel refiners' accumulated input tax become 15 and 45 days to make the lower tariff effective for product inventories that were bought prior to the tariff and prices but would be sold after the implementation of the VAT.

Refined petroleum product importers, for example, pay an inventory of as high 45 days. This means that the product they sold starting Nov. 1, the day the VAT was implemented, were bought at the 3-percent tariff level.

Refiners such as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., on the other hand, kept an inventory of between 30 and 40 days.

Lotilla said the DOE and the BIR had also

(CONTINUED ON A2)

Movie houses get reprieve on VAT row

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has temporarily suspended the collection of "unpaid" value-added tax liabilities of movie operators as the latter continued to insist that they were not covered by the VAT.

Under Revenue Memorandum Order No. 30-2007, revenue officers were told not to issue assessments against movie operators for alleged deficiency in VAT payments since 1996—estimated at about P1 billion—while the issue is still being resolved in the Court of Tax Appeals.

Lucita Rodriguez, spokesperson for the BIR, said the suspension was also intended to give time to the revenue agency to review the merits of the claim of theater owners. In the next few months, she said, the BIR might issue new policy on the issue.

Theater owners said they should not be required to pay the 10-percent VAT because they were already subject to the 30-percent amusement tax, which is a type of percentage tax. Imposing them to pay VAT would mean

(CONTINUED ON A2)

HEADHUNTERS

Foreign employers coming to Manila

By Naomi W. Dumlao

FOREIGN EMPLOYERS FROM THE MIDDLE East, Europe, Asia and the Americas are gathering in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) next week to hunt for thousands of professionals and skilled workers, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Employers from some 20 countries would be attending multisectoral job placement operation during the Labor Department's First International Labor Mart on Nov. 10 and 11.

Labor officials from said the government

shares close 1.17% up

WHAT'S INSIDE

GMA 7 raising capital to P5B

Justice of the fist

THOSE WHO PRESENT THE RESIGNS of the Supreme Court himself just two months ago, which hit the Ombudsman right in the face.

The Supreme Court ordered the Ombudsman to investigate some 37 individuals accused of graft and corruption, plus a little known crime called "plunder."

The case involved that problematic airport terminal project known as Nia 3—already more than 10 years in the making, and is, still, in the making.

Also, the Supreme Court handed down another landmark ruling on Nia 3, just when everybody was holding some highest secret's secret.

He is none other than newspaper owner Emilio Yap, a.k.a. Boy Emilio to some people in media circles; it also the main stockholder of the Manila Hotel.

Now, it took the Supreme Court some time to rule, as it has been almost four years since the petitioners filed the case.

Ombudsman ate the airport related businesses calling them stinkers "Mani," or the MIAA-NAIA Association of Investor Operators.

Under this new administration of Gloriamita, the same contract were through two more "supplements."

Nobody knew at that time if, like an athlete perhaps, the contract between DOTC and Piatco needed a shot of steroids.

It's just that the Supreme Court did not look kindly at those changes.

***

IN its latest ruling on cases involving the Nia 3, the Supreme Court said that the preliminary investigation of the Ombudsman was incomplete.

It seems to the five justices of the Supreme Court, chaired by Justice Artemio Panganiban, that the Ombudsman also contained in investigative frenzy.

Said the ruling: "The records bear these out."

***

NONE as a business organization, MIAIO merely watched out for the interests of its members when it filed complaints before the Ombudsman regarding Nia 3.

The Supreme Court ruling took particular interest in the following complaints of the group:

♦ Those stipulations, esta, "supplements" to the contract basically created a monopoly at the international airport in Manila—and in fact the whole of Luzon—and that monopoly would be under the exclusive realm of a private business group.

♦ Under those changes, the existing service companies at the airport could no longer operate, as in "closed down," unless Piatco approves them.

♦ Another defect in the contract was that the government would pay, if Piatco would default on its foreign debts.

♦ Piatco could also continue to operate the Nia 3, even after the 25-year contract expires, if the government would still owe Piatco any compensation under the contract—meaning, Piatco could run the terminal INDEFINITELY.

♦ Piatco could mortgage the facility.

♦ Finally, while Piatco would pay the government P750 million a year for 25 years, the government, in comparison, would lose the P1.2 billion a year it is earning from Nia 1 and Nia 2, which would have to cease operations as international airports once Nia 3 becomes fully operational. (To be continued)

Aboitiz shipping firm suffers P92.7-M loss

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM Corp., the leading provider of domestic ferry transportation service in the country, reported a net loss of P92.7 million as of Sept. 30.

ATSC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it suffered a loss during the period, from a profit of P29.1 million last year, due to the increase in overall costs and expenses, including finance costs.

The increase in costs offset the slight increase in revenues during the period to P6.15 billion, from P6.2 billion in the same period last year.

ATSC said total costs and expenses reached P6.1 billion, swelling by 7 percent over the same period last year.

The increase was largely due to the 14-percent increase in the depreciation of the ships and improvements.

Total depreciation of ships and improvements reached P699 million for the nine months ending Sept. 30.

Other factors contributing to the rise in costs and expenses included the 13-percent increase in terminal expenses and the 6-percent rise in operating costs due to higher fuel prices.

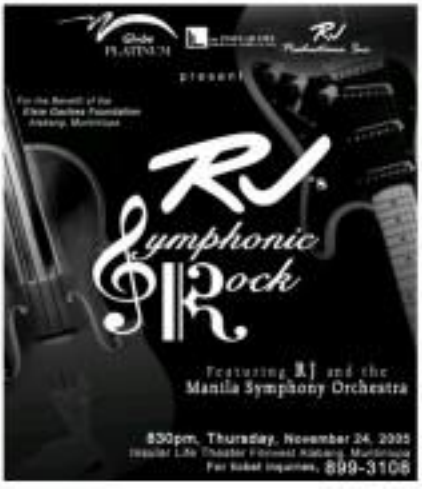
ATSC said it was currently awaiting on several plans to bring down costs.

Consolidated assets of the company at the end of the third quarter amounted to P9.2 billion, while total liabilities reached P5.1 billion.

Total "net debt stood at roughly P2.6 billion, with no additional borrowings made during the period.

Stockholders' equity stood at P4.1 billion, while cash generated from operations amounted to P1.1 billion.

ATSC also said it funded its capital expenditures worth P684 million during the nine-month period with internally-generated cash. It also cut debt by P861 million during the period.



NOTICE TO STOCKBROKERS OF
PAXYS, INC. (Formerly Fil-Hispano Holdings Corporation)

The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved on October 14, 2005 the amendments to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation changing its corporate name to PAXYS, INC. and increasing its authorized capital stock to P12.2 Billion.

On November 7, 2005 the corporation will start using new stock certificates bearing the new corporate name and the new authorized capital stock for all issuances. The corporation shall likewise be replacing outstanding stock certificates with new certificates. Accordingly, kindly surrender for replacement all your Fil Hispano stock certificates to the Stock Transfer Department, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, the Corporation's Transfer Agent. The offices are at the 6/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City.

Please take your stock certificates to the Transfer Agent personally or through a duly authorized representative. You may also courier them to the Transfer Agent. You may also send them by ordinary mail but we do not encourage this. You may wish to have the replacement certificate(s) mailed or couriered back to you, at your expense.

You will receive a notice when the new certificate(s) will be ready for pickup, i.e., about ten (10) working days after the surrender of the old certificate(s).

There is no fee for the stock certificate replacement. But if you want to split a stock certificate, there is a Php100 fee for every new certificate to be issued in excess of one. Multiple certificates of a stockholder will be consolidated into one new stock certificate, unless there are instructions to the contrary.

Within three (3) months from October 14, 2005, the old certificates may still be traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange. After the said period, old certificates must be replaced with new ones before they can be traded.

Lastly, "PAX" is your corporation's new trading symbol.

Sgd.
TARCISIO H. MEDALLA
Chairman and President

Foreign . . .

Turn to page 9/1

Baldoz said it was likely that the government-private sector target of providing one-million employment for a million Filipinos would be reached this year.

She said job opportunities would be sourced through recruitment agencies licensed by the POEA.

"Professionals and specialists are encouraged to register with the recruitment and manning agencies for matching of their work skills with the hiring criteria set by overseas employers, particularly those serving for the labor-short," she added.

POEA data showed that employers in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kazakhstan as well as from other emerging sheets of markets for their billion-dollar infrastructure development projects in oil and gas, electricity, water and communications sectors.

In these countries, specialists are also needed in projects involved in the sectors of engineering, design and construction, medical, health services, finance, information technology and hotel and tourism sectors.

Nurses, midwives, caregivers and other medical workers are needed especially in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, United Kingdom, Singapore and Slovenia.

VAT-related . . .

From page 9/1

ments that could validate which part of the oil firms' investments were bought as pre-VAT tariff levels and could affect BIR implementation.

Yet another concern, more for the government than for oil firms, was the implementation of a fixed withholding tax on sales to government entities.

He said this was one particular item in the implementing rules and regulations of RA 8424, or the VAT Reform Law, that would have to be addressed at the soonest possible time as it could place some additional burden on government agencies, including government-owned or -controlled corporations.

"In any case, this introduces a different pricing system to government entities. Also, traders will have to pass on to government the additional taxes that they can't absorb. This means that government entities may have to pay more," he said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
MAIN BOARD					
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
L					
M					
N					
O					
P					
Q					
R					
S					
T					
U					
V					
W					
X					
Y					
Z					
SMALL & MEDIUM BOARD					
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
L					
M					
N					
O					
P					
Q					
R					
S					
T					
U					
V					
W					
X					
Y					
Z					
FINANCIAL SECTOR					
PROPERTY, SERVICES & TOURISM					
HOLDING FIRMS					
MINING & OIL					
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED SERVICES					
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
CHEMICALS					
MANUFACTURING					
INDUSTRIAL, MISCELLANEOUS & OTHERS					
PREFERRED					
WARRANTS					
SMALL, MEDIUM & EMERGING BOARD					
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
L					
M					
N					
O					
P					
Q					
R					
S					
T					
U					
V					
W					
X					
Y					
Z					
PREFERRED					
WARRANTS					
MINING & OIL					
PROPERTY					
SERVICES					
HOLDING FIRMS					
FINANCIAL					
MANUFACTURING					
CONSTRUCTION					
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CHEMICALS					
INDUSTRIAL, MISCELLANEOUS & OTHERS					
PREFERRED					
WARRANTS					

CURRENCIES

November 2, 2005 (Wednesday)	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.018519	1.000000	54.0000
Japan	Yen	0.001726	0.093214	10.7870
United Kingdom	Pound	1.054630	1.703800	58.7000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.131720	0.711000	7.5900
Switzerland	Franc	0.014815	0.799700	67.7400
Canada	Dollar	0.015719	0.848579	63.6000
Singapore	Dollar	0.010989	0.593200	91.0000
Australia	Dollar	0.014085	0.760274	71.0000
Bahrain	Dinar	0.049261	2.658700	20.2000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.004938	0.266570	202.5000
Brunei	Dollar	0.010989	0.593200	91.0000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000185	0.009990	108.0000
Thailand	Baht	0.023810	1.285700	42.0000
UAE	Dirham	0.005045	0.272300	198.0000
Peru	Sol	0.005882	0.317500	170.0000
Argentina	Peso	0.000185	0.009990	108.0000
Brazil	Real	0.008333	0.449800	120.0000
Denmark	Krone	0.003571	0.192800	280.0000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.014815	0.799700	67.7400
Mexico	Peso	0.018519	1.000000	54.0000
Philippines	Peso	0.018519	1.000000	54.0000
Sweden	Krona	0.002778	0.149900	360.0000
Taiwan	Dollar	0.000575	0.031050	1738.0000
Vietnam	Dong	0.000001	0.000054	18518.5185
South Africa	Rand	0.002703	0.145900	370.0000
Korea	Won	0.000018	0.000971	1030.0000
Sweden	Krona	0.002778	0.149900	360.0000
Norway	Krone	0.003571	0.192800	280.0000
Denmark	Krone	0.003571	0.192800	280.0000
Kuwait	Dinar	0.064516	3.483900	15.5000
Bahrain	Dinar	0.049261	2.658700	20.2000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.004938	0.266570	202.5000
Brunei	Dollar	0.010989	0.593200	91.0000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000185	0.009990	108.0000
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Sweden	Krona	0.002778	0.149900	360.0000
Norway	Krone	0.003571	0.192800	280.0000
Denmark	Krone	0.003571	0.192800	280.0000

UCPB selling share in Makati condo for ₱3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

Getting out of non-core businesses

(UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK) will sell its entire stake in upscale mid-rental condominium Power Place in Makati for about ₱3 billion, taking advantage of the upturn in the property sector to get out of this non-core business.

UCPB owns 53 percent or 76 of the 143 apartment units. Unit sizes vary from 154 square meters to 360 square meters.

The high-rise apartments, formerly known as Parkes Tower, is co-owned by Singapore-based institutional property developer Prominence Real Estate Investment Inc. It is located on Valero Street, Makati City.

"That has been our game plan all along. We held on to the property because the market was down and now that it is picking up strongly, we think the time is ripe to sell," UCPB vice president for asset management and disposition division Christine Ozamiz said in a press conference yesterday.

The units will be sold fully furnished and titled-out to individual investors, Ozamiz said.

Under the revised apartment swamp, the individual units are leased out, and their owners receive shares of the rental from investors of Power Place for the year.

Considering said investor interest was reported to be very high in this time and that UCPB should be able to command a good price.

"We're already starting to get serious inquiries, which is not surprising because Power is a well-known international brand," said Marissa Sanchez, director for residential sales and leasing of Colliers International, which has been appointed exclusive marketing arm for the sale.

"Power Place is an ever-Best-Long-serve investment given its choice location in a quiet district of the Makati central business district and the reputation and track record of the operators," Sanchez added.

Being a condominium development, Power Place's units are covered by Condominium Certificate of Title, which means even foreigners can own them, Sanchez pointed out.

Power Place is being managed by Premier Serviced Residences Pte Ltd. Singapore, one of the three biggest serviced apartment operators in the Lion City. The company operates similar condominiums in Korea, Thailand, China, France and the United Kingdom.

Considering current data Power Place had been doing well, becoming a top choice of expatriates working for Philippine-based multinationals and foreign businessmen and investors who come over to the country for an extended stay.

In 2004, Power Place recorded an occupancy rate of 93 percent and received the "Best Prestige International Serviced Residence" award from the Singapore Government Media Foundation.

PNB posts 9-month profit of ₱454M

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK said it posted a net profit of ₱454 million from January to September, which was 230 percent higher than last year's ₱141 million.

The bank, which returned to profitability in 2003 and is now three years ahead of financial targets under its five-year rehabilitation plan, said the rise in net earnings was fueled by a 26-percent growth in interest income to ₱7.72 billion during the period from a year ago.

Given the nine-month profit, the bank has exceeded the ₱333-million bottom line recorded for the full year 2004.

Interest income on regular loans also increased by ₱1.06 billion to reach ₱3.51 billion.

Interest expenses slipped by one percent to ₱4.35 billion, allowing net interest income to almost double to ₱3.36 billion over the ₱1.7 billion posted in the nine-month period in 2004.

Fee-based income likewise jumped to about ₱4 billion to the bank's coffers.

As end-September, PNB's total resources stood at ₱123.32 billion, with ₱115.68 billion in total deposits and ₱82.05 billion in capital funds.

Following debt restructuring efforts and other workout activities, past due level is down to ₱24.33 billion, some ₱11.59 billion or 32 percent less than its ₱35.92 billion burden as at end-2004.

Likewise, the bank's non-performing loans ratio improved to 29.2 percent from 39 percent at end-2004, representing a reduction of 10 percent.

The joint bid by the Philippine government and the Lucio Tan group of their combined 61-percent stake in PNB was completed in the third quarter of 2005.

The purchase of the government's shares by the Lucio Tan group, the bank said, would speed up the development of its franchise and operational competitiveness.

Despite being fully privatized, PNB will remain a government depository bank until 2007.

In its effort to bring the industry leadership in the GSM remittance business, PNB also stepped up its marketing efforts, focusing on the lucrative overseas remittance market with Global Filipino Money Card, this is an electronic-cash stored-value card that overseas workers and remittance beneficiaries can obtain even without opening a PNB account.

SBC upgrades ATM network

SECURITY BANK CORP. UPGRADES its network of automated teller machines with the installation of the most advanced models of ATMs. The new-wave ATMs and bills payment machines are deployed in key strategic locations nationwide. At least 50 more ATMs in Security Bank branches will soon be available to accept cashless bills payment. The acquisition provides greater safety and convenience to its customers with added multi-function features that delivers a comprehensive range of transactions with the most advanced capabilities for self-service banking.

The new Security Bank ATM, called the NCR Personas 840 Function 58 Series 66, is the latest model in the banking industry that allows a bank a vast capability for a variety of services unrelated to customers 24/7. With deposit-taking and note-dispensing functions, including cashless bills payment, any time of the day and night. This is an upgrade of the traditional ATM services of cash deposit, cash withdrawal.

The user-friendly design increases customer confidence being PCI compatible and fully compliant with international security standards for Triple Data Encryption Standards (Triple DES) giving added protection to the cardholder's personal

INQUIRER Platinum Code

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PLATINUM CARD

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Find the answer in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 2272 for Globe/TM, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ecozones in ARMM

THE UNTAPPED BUSINESS OPportunities in the five provinces of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) pushed local legislators to create the Regional Economic Zone Authority (Reza), by virtue of Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 534.

Although similar to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), Reza differs significantly as it is focused into creating effective and healthy business environment suitable to the unique characteristics of the autonomous region. It has exclusive jurisdiction over economic locators in the component provinces and cities of the ARMM. This agency was established to guide investments in foreign and local industry inside the area's coastal and special economic zones with the ARMM. The creation of Reza is part of ARMM's mission to aggressively promote profitable ventures, particularly those that will help the agriculture and information technology sectors.

With this vast land that makes up its region, ARMM boasts of producing almost all kinds of crops—corn, palay, abaca, coconut, root crops and fruits. This enables local companies to competitively export their finish products, particularly bananas which are shipped to South Korea. In addition, the rich presence of rice soil, Islamic culture to accommodate highlighted ARMM as a potential key players in the world halal market. In fact, halal-related investments are left ARMM's top-billed priorities for its economy.

In pursuing this, a tripartite agreement between the ARMM Business Council (ARC), Dural Business Inc. (DBI) and DTI-ARMM was reached for the purpose of establishing a credible Halal Certification Board. With this initiative, DTI-ARMM Secretary Ishak Mastura hopes to encourage investors to seriously invest in the Mindanao Halal industry and to take advantage of the growing international demand for Halal products.

Areas initially identified as Special Development Corridor Zones are Barung in Maguindanao, Sinsuat in Datu Piang, Cotabato in Sultan, and Marawi City and Malabang in Lanao del Sur. Here, the vision is clearly being realized as DTI-ARMM, the interim agency operating the Reza, granted ARMM's first export zone in Sulu to economic zone.

ARMM is aimed and ready to do business with the world. With the continuous improvement of Reza's operations and advocacy and the support from different stakeholders, the many potentials of ARMM can now be revealed, and to rich resources shall encourage investors to see ARMM as a true haven for business.

(Ali Bara is an advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and the National Livelihood Board; chair of the Mindanao TSATC. Mindanaoan representative, Export Development Council; chair, Jeji Export Promotion; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to ayhbara2@yahoo.com)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Lot	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (in PhP)
1	Construction of Warehouse in Pulupandan	4,000,000.00
2	Construction of Warehouse in Cadiz City	4,000,000.00
3	Rehab. Warehouse in Binalbagan, Negros Occ.	1,000,000.00
4	Rehab. Warehouse in Cadiz City	1,000,000.00
5	Rehab. Warehouse in Pulupandan	1,000,000.00
	TOTAL	11,000,000.00

Kinds of Warranty	Required Amount in Percent of Bid
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee, Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	Two percent (2%)
Surety Bond Callable upon Demand by the Government	Five percent (5%)

Movie houses get reprieve

Turn to page B3

double taxation, they claimed.

Under the law, films should be subject to a sales tax either in the form of VAT or a percentage tax.

But the BIR earlier said the amusement tax paid by theater owners can only be remitted to local governments units and not to the national government. MR Deputy Commissioner Eric Lenaco said the revenue agency was previously asserting its right to collect VAT from theater owners, considering that the Tax Code exempts films to pay sales taxes to the national government.

Resistance and the payment of an amusement tax by theater owners was under a separate law—the Local Government Code.

But Bush-Ignacio said the BIR decided to review its stance due to issues given the continued opposition of industry players.

What Bush-Ignacio first received notice of tax collection from the BIR, the National Cinema Association of the Philippines (NCAP) wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo in July, asking her to intervene in the issue.

The group said many cinema operators have already shut down operations since 2001 because of the unfavorable business environment. Even major player Robinsons Movie World of the Golodgoyan family has been affected, closing down 16 cinemas since July, the group said.

NCAP noted that the industry directly handled about 90,000 employees and provided employment to more than 175,000 people in the downstream and related industries.

Among NCAP's active members are the SM Cinemas, Robinson's Movie World, the Ayala Cinemas, the Araneta Group, Cinema 2000, and Festival 98&0 Cinemas.

MINDANAOWORLD

Jyjil Alegado Bara

GMA 7 raising capital to ₱5B

Preparing for IPO in 2006

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK INC. IS RAISING its authorized capital to ₱5 billion, from ₱2 billion, in preparation for its initial public offering next year, a company official said.

The capital hike was approved recently by the owners and directors of GMA 7. It will soon be submitted to the investors and to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval.

Of the existing ₱2 billion authorized capital, ₱1.26 billion had been paid up.

The official said the public offering would have a PSE (Philippine Depository Receipt) component.

GMA 7 is selling between 20 percent and 30 percent of its stocks to the public by the first quarter of 2006, GMA 7 president Felipe Yalong said in an earlier interview. The IPO is expected to raise about ₱6 billion.

The network was valued at ₱20 billion last year but Gozon believed the figure would likely be higher now.

GMA 7 registered more than ₱5 billion in net income in the first nine months of 2001, a 30-percent increase bringing in profits for the first nine months of the year to ₱1.74 billion, or 50 percent higher than the ₱1.09 billion posted in the same period in 2000.

The prompted Gozon to say that the company would definitely exceed its ₱2-billion profit target for this year.

Financial advisers ATR Kim Eng and Deutsche Bank are upholding the audit of the network to determine its market value.

The network had planned to build its IPO in the first half this year but this was shelved due to issues involving its three major stockholders.

GOZON

Shares . . .

From page B1

shares up the government's fiscal problems, dealers said. (See story on Page A1.)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 46.96 points to close at the day's high of 1,907.13. It earlier hit a low of 1,860.22.

It was the index's best finish since Aug. 12, when it settled at 1,938.38.

Volume reached one billion shares worth ₱1.2 billion. Gainers outnumbered losers 83 to 14, with 54 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index rose 27.71 points to 1,214.77. AFP

LIFESTYLE

Beer, sauerbraten and eggs on the side

HOW DID I GET PAST THE month of October?

From the mystery of the *kamikaze* solved by Dr. Ricky Soler to the Stars Cigar Society's visit that led to the discovery of Jose Sorin's restaurant La Vigne, to the introduction of the Philippine National Culinary Team during World Chef's Day at Humphrey Navarro's P4E, to the delightful Olive Oil Ice Cream with Caramelized French Toast, Tomatoes and Olives by El Chikalo's J. Gamboa, to the launching of Dennis Hipolito's book "Endless Possibilities in Baking," a baker's must-have (0917-5165870)—October was perhaps the most action-packed month in 2005.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, yet no good-byes could be said to sweet October before talking about Mandarin Oriental's Oktoberfest, which was held in Manila at the MBC Tent.

Reggie Aglibut

German festival

Oktoberfest began in 1810 in Munich as a wedding reception thrown by King Maximillian of Bavaria to celebrate the wedding of his son, Prince Ludwig (Ludwig I, King of Bavaria) to Princess Therese of Sachsen-Hildburghausen. A celebration filled with merriment, beer drinking and horse races to a wiese (meadow), it was so successful King Maximillian decided to hold one every year in the same wiese, naming it Theresienwiese, after Ludwig's bride.

Today, the fest commences with a morning parade of colorful horse-drawn bierwagens that represent major brauereien (breweries) in Munich. Each brauereien sets up a *festhallen* (huge beer tent) for the festival. At noon of opening day, the bürgermeister (mayor) enters a festhallen, then cannons are fired 12 times, to which the bürgermeister taps the first keg, fills his maßkrüge (one-liter beer mug) with beer and says to the crowd, "Ozapft is!" The keg is tapped, setting Oktoberfest in motion.

The blaserchester (brass bands) begin to play trinklieder (drinking songs) while the kellnerinnen (waitresses) bring out the beer. Contests for the strongest kellnerinnen are held to see who can carry the most maßkrüge. Other competitions include beer drinking and würstchen (sausage) eating. It is also the time of year when the biggest amounts of Gebratene Ochsen (roasted oxen), Hähnchen (rotisserie chicken), Steckerlfisch (fish on a stick), Brauwurst, and Brezeln are consumed.

Beer doesn't play an important role in the festival. Munich breweries concoct a special beer for the fest called *wiesenbier* (meadow beer). There is even a non-alcoholic *kinderbier*, made out of malt, for children.

Oktoberfest is 16 days of drinking, eating, singing and dancing which used to begin in October but in 1880, due to the weather condition of the month, the dates were changed. It now commences on Samstag (Saturday) in September and ends the first Sonntag (Sunday) in October.

The evening of Oct. 8 was the closest we could ever get to being in Munich. "Oompapa" music was played by the Bavarian Sound Express, flown in from Munich. And the food—a bountiful traditional German buffet laid out by a good friend, executive chef Thomas Pfenger, an extensive German gustatory feast of Spanferkel (suckling pig in dark beer sauce), Sauerbraten (braised beef in sweet and sour sauce), Leberkase (meat loaf on creamed spinach), Hähnchen (herb-marinated roast chicken), roast pork knuckle with sauerkraut, and a variety of grilled and boiled sausages, salads, desserts, pretzels, heart-shaped gingerbreads, schnapps and cigars.

It was splendid! Best part was that the proceeds of the Mandarin's Oktoberfest went to the scholarship fund of the German School Manila Foundation.

More on eggs

• Boiled eggs—Bring water to a boil, make sure there's enough water to completely submerge the egg. Start putting eggs into boiling water since it's on running boil and start timing. For soft: 3 to 5 minutes, medium: 7 to 8 minutes, hard: 10-12 minutes

• Omelets—It is best to make small omelets over one large. They end up fluffier, lighter and a lot easier to handle. Add 2 tsp of water to your eggs mixture as water creates steam making a lighter omelet. Use pans that are shallow, thick and the size proportionate to the number of eggs. An 8-egg omelet in the largest I would go on a 10-12-inch pan, a 3-egg, on an 8-inch, the smallest. Have all your ingredients ready as the process must be done quickly. Temperature is another key to success. Test your pan for readiness by splashing a few drops of water. If they roll, instead of boiling and go up in steam, the pan is ready.

(To be continued...

Kitchen Rescue, Vol. 2, excerpts from the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Then Some, will be out soon. The book is a compilation of my columns since its inception! For reservations, call 9474744.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-

Oct. 8 was the closest thing to being in Munich, with 'Oompapa' music and traditional German buffet

MANDARIN Oriental's Oktoberfest (far left) and Dennis Hipolito's "Endless Possibilities"

Where food is art

TWO very rich desserts... creamy pudding and chocolate cake

A SALAD of asparagus spears, green olives, ricotta, tomatoes and corn

GAUDÍ, THE RESTAURANT NAMED AFTER architect Antoni Gaudí, innovative leader of the Spanish Art Nouveau movement in his lifetime, has a new location.

The restaurant that specializes in Spanish cuisine is now on the 4th floor of Greenbelt 3 offering dreamy a breathtaking view of the park below and the Makati business district skyline.

Executive chef Alexandre Gadea, trained by one of Spain's most prominent chefs, Ignacio Mogaraza, introduces diners to modern Spanish cuisine from Spain's diverse regions, complemented by a wide variety of wines and cavas.

Gaudí is located at 4/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 7572710 and 7572711, or e-mail gaudi@manila.com.ph.

BOILED lamb with mint sauce and veggies

A volcanic kind of cooking

GRILL ASIA IN THOMPSON SQUARE, SHELL-ing on Tomas Morato, Quezon City has more than 50 grilled dishes on its menu.

But grilling at the year-old restaurant is done differently. Roasting is done over volcanic rock and other heat sources. Various dipping sauces and gloves are then added to dishes for more exotic flavors.

Steven Yalieo, Grill Asia owner, says grilling is healthier than deep-frying and other more popular forms of food preparation.

Among Grill Asia's popular dishes are Manila's "Bvilla, barbecued pork marinated in garlic, sugar and vinegar subjects, grilled, red pan fried, skewered beef served with garlic spiked marinade.

Grill Asia has fresh beef, pork and chicken meat and seafood delivered almost daily. To keep seafood fresh, shrimps and fishes given are "on batch" before freezing.

Grilled meat is kept moist by showering it with vegetables with high moisture content. Waiters recommend inserting onions, bell pepper and lemon between meat and seafood.

When grilling, meat is constantly brushed with its marinade and with stock.

The use of bare rock and flame grill, keeps the cooking heat constant. The meat also does not get easily.

Grill Asia caters for special occasions. It can change the décor of its structure to suit the special occasion. Call 911 2792.

THE SECRET to great grilled food is developing the meat in moisture by constant basting and by showering meats with veggies with high water content.

HOW HIGHLIGH chocolates and truffles

Month-long choco festival launched

RED MOSAIC MANSION launched its month-long "Chocolate Festival" by unveiling a 10-foot chocolate fountain, the tallest so far in the country, at Robinsons Place Manila.

People gazed in awe as chocolate into the liquid chocolate flowing from the multi-tiered fountain from the Embassy of Chocolate Pinoy.

During the event, Red Ribbon Bakeshop presented its new premium chocolate cakes and truffles specially created for the festival. They are available until Nov. 15 in selected Red Ribbon stores.

The special items are Choco Orange Truffle Cake, Chocolate Mango Mousse, Twin Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Layer Cake, Dark Chocolate Truffle and White Chocolate Truffle.

Event performer was musician Teri Favores. Exciting prizes were given away in various games. Kids were treated to free face painting and balloons.

Jorge Concepcion, Red Ribbon Bakeshop's executive vice president and general manager, said the new creations were quite different from existing products. They included flour less cakes and were gluten free.

Concepcion and Dieter Speer of the Embassy of Chocolate led the ribbon lunch. The Festival was presented by Red Ribbon and The Embassy of Chocolate, in cooperation with Robinsons Place Manila.

Products of the Embassy of Chocolate are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Link Import Export Enterprise, Inc.

The new chocolate creations are available at Red Ribbon Bakeshops at Robinsons Ermita, Baguio, Alabang, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Jaro, Ayala Parkspace 2, Ayala Ist Shaw Blvd., SM Southmall, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, Timog Quezon Avenue, Kalaw North Edsa, Congressional, Commonwealth, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Kacipatan, Lipa and Marasol.

GUESTS enjoyed dipping marshmallows into the giant chocolate fountain during the launch of Red Ribbon's "Chocolate Festival."

Count calories by reading the menu

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

TASTE AND APPEARANCE used to be the main considerations in most people's choice of food. Lately, however, more and more people are choosing meals with health and nutrition in mind.

The good news is, there are now restaurants that offer healthy menu options.

Hi-Lo Café at the third level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall (next to Boni Aguinid) is the latest to offer a good selection of both food and drinks that are low in fat, low in salt, low in sugar, yet high in fiber, and providing essential carbohydrates for energy from natural sources.

Hi-Lo Intl. MARKETING does not promote any fad diets. Its goal is simple: Aim for a well-balanced diet.

"So food contains every essential nutrient in correct proportions and no single pill or supplement can compensate for a poor diet," says Mel Bonnaire, a fitness trainer and consultant for Hi-Lo. "Eating a well-balanced meal composed of a variety of foods is the healthiest way to meet normal nutrient requirements of our body."

MED Roanan, Hi-Lo executive chef

Healthy choices

Hi-Lo—which stands for high in nutrition, energy and quality, and low in fat, sodium (salt), sugar and calories—is being run and operated by Roanan's Food Services Division, the same group behind Boni Aguinid's diner, Food Time Fine Coffee Shop and Inasikwal and Close-Q Japanese Grill. The group is led by Margarita Lopez-de Roan.

Hi-Lo offers the right selection of healthy foods. Its menus state their nutritional facts and figures so the calorie-conscious may work out the right combination of foods for a balanced meal.

Dishes at Hi-Lo are baked, poached, grilled, broiled, sautéed or steamed. Never fried. Egg whites, natural sweeteners like honey and stevia-with or raw whole-wheat and multigrain, extra-virgin olive oil, organic foods, lean meat, poultry and seafood and cooked or eaten with on the farmed ingredients.

Hi-Lo does not use sugarcane and other artificial sweeteners, whole flour, saturated cooking oil, monounsaturated plantains, whole or full cream milk and whipped cream.

In a typical restaurant, a single serving probably provides calories equivalent to at least two meals. Portion sizes are often double or triple what a person would normally eat.

But at Hi-Lo, food portions are adjusted so that one does not have too much of something. It allows the diner to try a variety of dishes without exceeding the recommended calorie intake per meal.

"We've gotten used to eating like a horse," quips Bonnaire. "Portion control is important. Moderation is key. Hi-Lo encourages clients to order most items on the menu instead of getting just one dish that will be high in calories."

For starters, diners can choose from a wide range of soups and salads—the pinakbet and cauliflower soup and Vietnamese spinach salad are must-tries.

For the main course, some of the recommended items are grilled shrimp, turkey or lamb kebabs (not soaked in low-fat yogurt complemented with other herbs or and rice.

Gourmet dishes like carrots tofu(rice, seafood, meat, and vegetables with herb sauce and thin cheese all cooked in plant-based oils and flavored with natural herbs and spices are also gaining popularity among the regulars.

For sweet endings, it may be a two-cup harvest: fruit kabob (fresh papaya, pineapple and let us) for those of skewered, grilled and marinated in syrup) and the less-calorie Spanish flan, among others.

Drinks from juice combinations mixed with yoghurt or soya milk or tofu or with other honey or syrup are available at the Hi-Lo Juice Bar.

For those who prefer light meals or who only want a snack, you can try a variety of pizzas, pastas and sandwiches.

To try a little of everything the place has to offer, there is the Hi-Lo mix Meal with a total of only 550 calories from appetizer to dessert.

Vitamin-packed drinks are aplenty as well. They include watermelon, cantaloupe, kiwi, strawberry, dalandan, calesa and apple. The most popular is the ESL (Edmundo S. Lopez) taste, an energy drink containing celery cucumber, green apple, green bell pepper and green ampalaya. That has been the power drink of Magnolia Lopez de Jesus Tuason, and his own concoction.

"We want to encourage everyone to enjoy life and enjoy eating. It is all about choosing the right food and in the right amounts," says Roanan.

PROJECT Rabbit with Almond Syrup

The new Hi-Lo Café does not only serve health foods but has put each dish's nutritional information in print

GRILLED Chicken with Apricots

Belgian specialties showcase

DINING OUT

MARATE MANGOLA is food officer's Thanksgiving feast at Rico 2M Pasig Boulevard, Ortigas Center. Roast Turkey, Corn Bread, Roasted Pumpkin, Oyster Dressing, Cranberry Chutney, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans Almondine, Cranberry Salad, Pumpkin Pie, Ice Cream, Coffee and Tea. Lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner buffet from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Call 634-0701 to 09.

THE PENINSULA MANILA's Spices Restaurant features an array of regular and seasonal vegetarian fare.

HOLIDAY INN Galleria Manila's Rajahani Coffee Shop has a Spanish lunch buffet on Nov. 11-27. The Lobby's Chocolate Buffet will be held Nov. 11-Dec. 17. Call 887-3000.

MANDARIN Oriental's Tandoor room Belgian Cuisine Extravaganza Festival on Nov. 19-20. Belgian culinary specialties include Lobster and Chilled Asparagus Salad with Smoked Milk Foam and Balsamico, Salmon with Mussel Soup Flavored with Glennon and Meatballs with Cream Potatoes on Braised Leek and Air-dried Bacon. Belgian specialties with servings of meat, seafood and vegetables are also offered. Call 7580000 loc. 1424 and 1411.

Coffee, tea and acoustic numbers

CREME Brulee—espresso

THE NEW GLORIA Jean's Coffee SM Megamall does not only offer a good brew but also live acoustic performances from 6-7:30 p.m. Fridays, and 7:30-9 p.m. Saturdays.

Enjoy the rich caramel sensation of Creme Brulee—espresso, smoothened with steamed milk and whipped cream and topped with caramel drizzle, as you listen to soulful performances.

Starting next week, the Internet (WiFi) connection will be available soon. The store also offers handcrafted espresso, coffee drinks, signature espresso-based cold drinks, a range of blended and ice-blended coffees, creme and ice-cream cakes, cookies, accessories and gifts.

The SM Megamall outlet is the latest addition to the chain of Gloria Jean's Coffee shops. At present, the chain has 18 branches in Metro Manila, two in Cebu City and one in Baguio City.

Gloria Jean's Coffee SM Megamall is in Building A, right above the skating link. Call 6346888.

TWIGGIES, the treat's snack tubes, may be enjoyed as merienda or late hours.

New snack will delight both kids and adults

OAKDOOR BAKERIES PHILIPPINES, Inc. (OBPI) has come up with snack items that both kids and adults are likely to enjoy, particularly cake lovers.

Twiggies Snack Cake is sweet and has rich sweet filling. It goes well with most drinks.

Twiggies can also be frozen for that ice-cream cake taste.

Whether served as merienda for visiting friends and relatives or here for kids, Sweetheards may want to keep Goodness Twiggies handy.

Goodness has also given new twist to ordinary breads, adding ube, cheese, chocolate, sweet, raisin, strawberry or apple bites into of our Bakes, Danish, sesame seeds, wheat flakes and sunflower kernels in some of them.

From the traditional pan de sal and loaf bread have also been given new treatments, ever to sweeten breakfast table sometimes.

Whether for snacks or meals, Goodness now has something to offer.

Goodness Twiggies Snack Cakes are available in supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide.

Stew of catfish and herbal leaves

By Consuelo Jerez Reyes

MY GRANDFATHER'S HOBBY was fishing, especially during the rainy season when the rice fields were covered with water. He would come home with his coastfish, mud fish or frogs in his "basla" (container of his catch). If he showed up with catfish, my grandmother would cook "Lagat na Hito." The alagaw leaves that she added to the stew were herbal or medicinal.

My grandmother died at the age of 103 in 1986, but the family's favorite traditional recipe lives on in the kitchens of the present (fourth) generation.

Lagat na Hito with Alagaw Leaves

1 kg hito (catfish) cut 1½ inch
3 tomatoes cut into cubes
2/3 c soy sauce
2 tbsp patis (fish sauce)
½ c sliced onion
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh pupa (tea or yellow ginger
Alagaw leaves
1 tbsp garlic, minced
¼ c vinegar
1 ½ c water
1 tbsp finely chopped dayap rind
1 tsp ground black pepper

Sauté garlic, onion, fresh pupa and tomatoes. Cook well; add water to boil. Add dayap rind, hito, soy sauce and patis. Cover for 3 minutes. Add vinegar and let boil for another 2 minutes. Add black pepper and alagaw leaves. Mix well and cover for 3 minutes. Serve hot. Good for family of 10 persons.

LAGAT na Hito with Alagaw Leaves

Win SM Supermarket gift checks

LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING FOR recipes that are traditional Filipino treasures and legendaries.

Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P5,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, an Imarflex gift or a class at the Reggie Aquino School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked the recipe; how many generations have cooked it, when it is usually cooked and served. Write your name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address, if any, at the bottom of the recipe.

Include a photo of the dish. Please do not send us your photo.

Mail or deliver your entry to: FH Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10th Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200. Or e-mail to recipes@inquirer.com.ph. For details, e-mail library@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim prizes from the FH marketing office.

Give plain pancakes a new twist

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE HOTcake has come to be known as a popular food for breakfasts and snacks mainly from being quick and easy to cook, the great appeal of hotcakes lies in its delicious taste and nutritive value. Hotcakes are rich in carbohydrates that give energy. One piece of hotcake is already enough to fill a hungry tummy. With butter and hotcake syrup, hotcakes are unbearably yummy.

Still, to satisfy how your children's tastes of your family love hotcakes, hotcakes will eventually set in if hotcakes are served the same way every so often.

Thankfully, Liberty Commodities Corporation, the makers of Mayo Hotcakes, offers suggestions for hotcakes with a twist:

Add a hotcake chips. Include bittersweet chocolate chips when you whip up some hotcakes. Simply sprinkle some on the hotcake mix a few tbsp to have "hotchips" or "hoho" as it is cooking in the frying pan or skillet.

Get fruity. Top a stack of hotcakes with fruits such as peaches or strawberries. Add a dollop of cream. Another option is to put sliced bananas while you are cooking the hotcake in the pan. Fruits will give the hotcake added sweetness value as they are rich in vitamins and minerals.

Shape them. Cookie cutters are not just for cutting cookie dough. You can also use them to make interesting shapes out of hotcakes. So hotcakes don't have to be round, they can also be triangles, stars, diamonds, squares, rectangles, shaped, even animal shaped.

Sugar and margarine. An alternative to the butter and hotcake syrup combo: Simply spread margarine on top of the hotcake and sprinkle sugar. The sugar on top will give a "crunchy" outcome to the hotcake. You can also use vanilla-butter's sugar for a gourmet taste.

Chocolate or strawberry syrup. Leave a bottle of chocolate syrup or strawberry syrup on the table and let your kids pour the sweet goodness on their hotcakes.

Candy sprinkles. Aside from making the hotcake sweet, candy sprinkles also add color, making it so much more interesting.

More than hotcakes, Mayo Hotcake Mix is not just for hotcakes. Try Mayo's Bibingka a la Mode topped with Vanilla Ice Cream, cashew nuts and chocolate syrup, and Mashed Potato Pancakes, a new twist to the classic mashed potato and a hearty option for dinner and lunch.

Try Mayo Hotcake mix with cream and vanilla. Indeed, there are endless possibilities with Mayo Hotcake Mix!

BIBINGKA a la Mode

Mashed Potato Pancakes

1 330-g pack Mayo Original Hotcake Mix
1 egg
1 c mashed potatoes
1 tbsp onion, chopped
¼ cup diced mushrooms, sautéed
1/3 c liver pâté
Pre-mixed

In a bowl, combine all ingredients (save oil) blended.

In a large heavy skillet, pour ¼ c of the mixture. Cook until bubbly. Turn pancake to cook completely. Do the same for the rest of the mixture.

Serve the pancakes as an accompaniment to meat, poultry and egg.

Bibingka a la Mode

1 330-g pack Mayo Original Hotcake Mix
Bibingka
1 egg
½ water
1 cup coconut cream
Vanilla ice cream
Chocolate syrup
Cooked cashew nuts or toasted coconut

In a bowl, combine egg, water and batter.

Pour mixture in a hot griddle pan and cook bibingka until done.

To serve: Place bibingka muffin on a dessert plate, top with a scoop of ice cream. Drizzle with chocolate syrup and top with nuts.

Recipes courtesy of The Mayo Kitchen Culinary Arts Center, Liberty Commodities Corporation. Call 9920611 local 208, or 9921180.

Brine and brisket classes

THE REGGIE Aquino School of Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Nov. 6—Brine 2 (all level)—Brined Roast Chicken in Wine Sauce, Brine Roasted Lemonade Turkey, Brined Pork Chops served two ways—Herb Butter and Apple Rosemi, Side Dishes

Nov. 8—Grilling!—Burger Steak, Chicken Steak, Pork Chop Steak, Sizzling Angus Steak with Kinilaw-ons Gravy, Pesa Teriyaki,

Nov. 9—Brisket (all level)—Sweetpotato-Whole Marinated Barbecued Slab of Tender Beef Brisket with up Buffet-ns Stores, Salad, Side Dishes and Dessert

Nov. 9—Christmas Cakes and Loaves, Say Goodbye to Bought-ies! Offer—The Perfect Banana Cake 2 versions, Apple Cake, Walnut Cake, Butter Cake, Wine Cake, Pandan Tea Cloth

Call 5249206, 5273088, 8955432, 8717-8399888.